Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-229 *29 November 1995*

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Barcelona Conference

Full Text of Syria's al-Shar' Speech Given

JN2811130095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Nov 95

["Text" of speech by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona on 27 November—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President, on behalf of my country and the members of the Syrian Arab delegation, it gives me great pleasure to extend gratitude to friendly Spain—king, government, and people—for hosting the first Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona, the historical city which, thanks to its Phoenician origin, is considered a symbol of cross-cultural interaction and the meeting place of human civilizations on the banks of the Mediterranean for thousands of years.

Since the beginning of time, the Mediterranean has been a lake of communication and interaction among the peoples of its littoral states. Across it they exchanged all sorts of knowledge, culture, products, and human expertise. These exchanges did not stop even at times of violent confrontations. This is a clear fact confirmed by historians and witnessed by tourists in the immortal monuments that show that, in their conquests, Arabs and Muslims who came from the eastern and southern Mediterranean were interested in dialogue, construction, and transfer of knowledge across borders rather than confrontation and monopoly of knowledge and science.

Our aim in this conference is to look to the future optimistically. However, reading history objectively and impartially remains important in order to face common challenges and overcome doubts and feelings of mistrust which have penetrated the fabric of relations. We will thus be able to build future relations based on international law, common interests, and equal [mutasawi] security for all parties. We are neighbors, and security between neighbors is interrelated and closely linked. Security cannot prevail or become entrenched if it is in the interest of one party at the expense of the other.

We believe that this conference, which includes the EU and a number of Arab states, can better achieve its goals if the rest of the Arab states join it. The Mediterranean is not just a geographical concept, but a geopolitical concept, particularly when we take into account that all Arab states belong to one nation. In order to succeed in turning the Mediterranean and Europe into a region of security, stability, cooperation, and prosperity—which is the aim of our conference—we should have the political will and the moral courage to take into account the following facts objectively:

First, a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without a full Israeli withdrawal from all of the Golan to the 4 June 1967 line and from southern Lebanon, and without guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. If what Israeli Foreign Minister General Baraq said constitutes a commitment before this conference and expresses a willingness to translate it into action, then Syria is very positively ready to commit itself to a full peace in return for a full withdrawal, reinforced by security measures that guarantee equal [mutasawi] security for both parties. It will then be possible to reach a peace agreement within the next few months.

Second, justice, equality, reinforcing democracy and human rights, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states are basic principles in the Barcelona declaration. This means that we reject all forms of racism, terrorism, injustice, aggression, and foreign occupation. This necessarily requires a distinction between terrorism, which is condemned, and the peoples' legitimate right to resist foreign occupation.

Third, this conference includes developed European states and developing Arab states. In light of this, we believe that setting the year 2010 as a target date to gradually establish a Euro-Mediterranean free trade exchange zone requires immense and persevering efforts on both sides to bridge the huge economic and scientific gap, if this target date is to be met.

In this respect, we believe that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation requires an active EU participation in eliminating all obstacles to the transfer of technology, developing scientific research capabilities, promoting industrial production, increasing competitiveness in developing Mediterranean states, and improving trade conditions and achieving a balance in foreign economic relations.

Mr. President, at the conclusion of my speech, I find no better words than to quote President Hafiz al-Asad in his speech in 1987 at the inauguration of the 10th round of the Mediterranean sports tournament in Latakia. He said: We want the Mediterranean to be a sea of peace and friendship in whose skies sea gulls, and not aircraft of aggression, fly. We want it to be crossed by ships of cooperation among peoples and not by carriers of death and destruction.

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Israel's Baraq Comments on Syria at Conference End

TA2911085395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Syria did not order the Katyusha attacks on northern Israel, but since Damascus enables Hizbullah to have a certain "freedom of movement," it cannot escape "a measure of indirect responsibility," Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq said yesterday.

Baraq told Israeli reporters at the conclusion of the EU-Mediterranean conference that, "While Hizbullah does not ask permission from Syria every time it fires weapons, Damascus could prevent the attacks if it wished." [passage omitted]

Asked about reports of secret talks between Israeli and Syrian officials in Europe recently headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Baraq said "I don't know." Savir's office denied the story.

Baraq also refused to divulge details of his two-hour late night meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 29 November in a page 9 report by Smadar Peri adds: "A senior Arab public figure yesterday confirmed the report published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT about the secret meeting between Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and a senior Syrian official. Savir recently conferred secretly in Europe several times with a senior Syrian Foreign Ministry official. The latest meeting between the two was held 10 days ago in Brussels and lasted several hours. The Arab source disclosed that the senior Syrian official is a diplomat with ambassadorial rank and is subordinate to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'."]

Baraq, 'Arafat Discuss Oslo B, Fighting 'Terrorism'

TA2911092995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 95 p 15

[Report by Ben Kaspit in Barcelona]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last night's first meeting between Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was called "successful, fruitful, and interesting." The two met by accident before lunch with Spain's King Juan Carlos when 'Arafat caught Baraq playing Chopin on the piano in the huge reception room of the royal palace.

Later, at midnight, they held a working session. For 90 minutes they discussed implementation of the Oslo B accords and the fight against terrorism. Baraq called on 'Arafat to continue to exert pressure on the extremist groups — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad — and told him that the greater the reduction in the scope of terrorism, the easier it will be to implement the Oslo B accords and progress toward the permanent settlement.

The two were in agreement about the need to fight terrorism. "In the past, we were cousins; now we are cousins and partners," 'Arafat said. "We are determined to prevent fanatical groups from sabotaging 'the peace of the brave' that we have achieved. Foreign Minister Baraq and I know each other, but up to now we have not had the opportunity to meet. We met face-to-face for the first time today, and we have no doubt that we will continue to walk hand in hand on the road to peace. The terrible assassination of Mr. Rabin is a great loss not only to the people of Israel but also to the Palestinians. It is our duty to continue to follow Rabin's path and aim for the goals for which he sacrificed his life." Foreign Minister Baraq announced that Israel will fight terrorism and that he has no doubt that the Palestinians will do the same. "I had an opportunity to meet with Chairman 'Arafat for the first time and discuss with him the implementation of our agreements. We plan to implement the agreement. We do not have any illusions; there will be obstacles along the way, especially terrorism, and we will fight it."

Baraq said he will try to continue the work of former Foreign Minister Peres, "who invested a great deal of time and energy in work for and support of the economic development of the Palestinian Authority. I will try to continue that endeavor." [passage omitted]

Algeria's Dembri Comments on Role of Conference

LD2811210295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Algeria was represented at the Barcelona Conference by the foreign minister. He delivered a speech today in which he dealt with the current situation in Algeria and welcomed any ideas that would lead to a dialogue and coordination of positions, particularly the Arab ones. Here is Nacira Ait Salah:

[Salah] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri talked about the current situation in Algeria and the political and economic prospects following the presidential elections as well as the outcome and hopes of the Barcelona Conference.

Dembri said the Barcelona Conference constituted a historical stage and an important event in promoting European-Mediterranean dialogue. He added "it is believed that today there is a clear political awareness to

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establish a new partnership in the European- Mediterranean region".

"This first Barcelona meeting has only laid the conditions for a partnership on the political-security, economic, and financial levels but also on a socio-humanitarian level," he said.

The minister further said that the conference had underlined the contradictions existing between the political reality and the European intentions to establish cooperation free of restrictions.

Dembri: Readings of Conference Results Differ

LD2911102995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The two-day Euro-Mediterranean conference ended today. [passage omitted]

As Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said, the reading [of the final communique] between the two sides of the Mediterranean has differed:

[Begin Dembri recording] Regarding basic human rights in general, they are included in all Arab constitutions. If there is criticism of political practices it would, first and foremost, be of interest to Arab societies.

Regarding the link between human rights and political practices, we actually presented a different point of view from the one discussed. For us the right to development is one of the basic human rights and freedoms, as are the rights to work and to health. This has to be achieved in all societies by forging solidarity among nations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Before the end of the conference, Mr. Dembri, who headed the Algerian delegation at the Barcelona conference, made the following statement to our colleague Abdulmunem Dakar:

[Dakar] Algerian Foreign Minister Dembri said that Algeria considers that the reform of Arab economic structures, in light of the EU's call for the establishment of a free trade zone, should be met with European solidarity. At a news conference held shortly before the end of the Barcelona conference, he stated: What is required from us is a full economic opening up in the countries of the South. However, in return we urge a solidarity with us in reforming the economic structure, including the privatization process and the liberalization of prices.

He continued: Algeria believes that the process which will start as of now should be inspired by the European integration measures, such as those that were implemented in Spain, Greece, and Italy; rapprochement measures were implemented in these countries thanks to massive financial help, which enabled them to join the EU without having to suffer great social upheavals.

Dembri went on to say: Measuring the development disparities between the EU countries and those in the southern part of the Mediterranean, we have found that the call urging us to implement the reforms designed to enable us to keep up with progress at our own expense is an insult to our intelligence.

He added that the average income in the EU countries is $18,000 per annum compared to $700 in the South. He said: This gives us an idea of the efforts awaiting us.

He expressed doubt as to whether it is possible to talk about the existence of partnership while insisting on implementing laws that restrict the exchange of certain products, such as the one imposed by the EU on agricultural produce, a measure to protect its economy.

He added: We do agree that partnership requires an opening up. However, this should include both sides. He said: Human relations are of exceptional importance. How do they want companies to cooperate while they restrict human movement?

However, Dembri expressed satisfaction at the way the final communique dealt with the issue of debts. He stated: Algeria was right when it raised this issue in 1993; when the final communique talked about this issue and about the need to hold political dialogue it was in harmony with Algeria's stand.

Barcelona Declaration Said To Legalize 'Resistance'

JN2811172995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference approved the Barcelona Declaration in its closing session this afternoon. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' took part in this session.

Syria and Lebanon succeeded in incorporating in this declaration a paragraph which legalizes the use of legitimate means against the acquisition of the lands of others by force. This means that the resistance has the right to use legitimate means against the Israeli occupation.

Syria has also succeeded in including in the declaration a paragraph on the peace process. The paragraph asserts the support of all participants in the Barcelona conference for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and the Madrid formula, including the land-for-peace principle. [passage omitted]

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Receives Message on UN Resolutions

NC2711204495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat today received a message from Iraq on the Iraqi Government's implementation of all the international resolutions named by the Security Council as conditions for lifting the embargo on it.

Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that his country fulfilled all its fundamental obligations, which necessitate the lifting of the embargo on the Iraqi people without delay. He pointed out that Iraq had recognized the State of Kuwait and its international border. Najm stressed that the message confirmed that Iraq disposed of the weapons of mass destruction banned under Resolution 687, noting that in January 1992 Iraq confirmed that it did not possess any weapons or substances banned under the same resolution.

Dr. Najm pointed out that the Special Commission tasked with destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has been operating since 1991 and until today. The International Atomic Energy Agency has sent dozens of inspection and verification teams, he added, noting that they did not find anything in conflict with or contradictory to what Iraq announced in January 1992.

Dr. Najm added that the message delivered to the Arab League included Iraq's approval of Resolution 715 setting up an effective monitoring and verification system in all Iraqi factories and institutions included in Section C of Resolution 687. A system has been put in place to monitor Iraq's imports and exports as well as Iraqi purchases of the so-called dual-purpose technology, he added. The message, he added, stressed that Iraq had returned all Kuwaiti property found inside Iraq and promised to return any further property to be found. Dr. Najm noted that Iraq had complied with Resolution 686 related to the release of all Kuwaiti and other detainees and prisoners in March 1991. They were repatriated to their countries with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross, he added, noting that so far 6,222 prisoners and detainees have been released. The Iraqi message emphasized that Iraq no longer has any prisoners or detainees.

Dr. Najm stressed that Iraq is cooperating earnestly on the files of the Kuwaiti missing persons, who number 603, and has provided information on the results of investigations into 300 of the 603 files. He pointed out that Iraq continues conscientiously to seek information on the missing persons. Dr. Najm added that the message included Iraq's approval of the principle of reparations in accordance with the rules of international law, noting that these reparations can be paid only after the embargo imposed on Iraq has been lifted.

Concerning Resolution 986, which permits Iraq to sell part of its oil under specific conditions, the Iraqi message stressed that the resolution constitutes a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and independence and puts Iraq as an entity at risk.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 14 Nov

NC2211170895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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3. Candidates' Supporters Arrested, Tortured
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6. Party Leader Views Political Reform, Shura
7. Detainee Says Trial Victory for MB
8. Editor Comments on Rabin's Funeral, Trial
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11. Islamic Group Planning Murder of Senior Political Figure
12. Writer Criticizes Clinton's Speech at Rabin's Funeral
13. MB's Mashhur Says Alliance Intact
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STUDENTS PROTEST MILITARY TRIALS, ELECTION-RIGGING

Students from al-Azhar, 'Ayn Shams, Alexandria, al-Mansurah, al- Zaqaziq, and Hulwan Universities this week staged "massive" demonstrations to protest the military trial of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] leaders, the ban of Islamist students from running for student union elections, and the arrest of "hundreds" of these students, an approximately 1,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on pages 1 and 8 notes. At 'Ayn Shams University in Cairo, students staged a massive demonstration "in the past two days" denouncing the government's "suppression of freedoms." The demonstrators burned the Israeli and

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U.S. flags, demanded the release of the detained MB leaders, and called on students to support the "Islamic Alliance" candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections. The report notes that several students were arrested and some were expelled from their colleges.

COURT TO ISSUE VERDICT ON MB CASE 23 NOVEMBER

An approximately 700-word report by Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 8 says that the Military Court on 13 November decided to postpone the verdict in the case involving the first group of MB figures, who number 49, to 23 November. The original defense team hired by the defendants, which had walked off the case in an earlier session to protest the court procedures, met on 12 November with the court president. It requested the suspension of the trial and the release of the defendants until the Supreme Constitutional Court rules on the Constitutionality of Article 6 of the Military Courts' Law, which the defense is challenging.

The report adds that on 13 November the court trying the second group of MB figures met and listened to the testimony of two State Security officers. One of the officers from al-Minya said he has no proof that the defendants were providing financial aid to the families of the "so-called military groups." Reacting to the trials, representatives of Islamic movements meeting in Lahore between 8 and 10 November issued a statement denouncing the "repressive measures" the Egyptian Government has taken against the MB, the report adds.

On page 4, Khalid Yunus writes an approximately 2,000-word report on the trial of the MB leaders. Yunus notes that every day the facts reveal the falseness and invalidity of the accusations made against the MB leaders who are on trial. He points out that the existence of a "computer, a fax machine, and foreign currencies in the home or the office of any oppositionist has become in the eyes of the State Security Intelligence Department evidence that he is a dangerous terrorist trying to overthrow the regime." Despite this, he adds, the computer discs seized in the first and second cases against the MB figures have been dismissed as evidence by the Military Prosecution. The report includes part of the State Security Prosecution's interrogation of Dr. Mahmud Husayn Ahmad, assistant professor at Asyut University and treasurer of the Engineering Syndicate in Asyut, in which he denied the prosecutor's charges of joining an illegal organization calling for the suspension of the Constitution.

CANDIDATES' SUPPORTERS ARRESTED, TORTURED

Security forces have arrested eight supporters of Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, the Islamic Alliance's candidate in al-Darb-al-Ahmar Cairo district, while they were posting the candidate's election posters, an approximately 500-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 notes. The report adds that they were tortured with "electric shocks," beaten, and kicked in an attempt to dissuade them from continuing their backing for al-Banna. The prosecutor released six of them, while two remain in detention. Al-Banna has told AL-SHA'B that what is happening in his constituency runs counter to the statements of the president, the prime minister, and the interior minister about the "fairness" of the elections. He added: "Is it fair to demand that I alone of all the candidates not have more than five supporters? Is it fair to tear up only my posters, to detain my supporters, and to ban my marches?" He added: "We are banned from getting close to the masses and presenting ourselves and our programs to them, although we are the only ones who abide by the law and legitimacy."

In a related incident, the report notes that the Bulaq Prosecutor has decided to shelve the investigations of Islamic Alliance candidates Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus; deputy head of the Journalists Syndicate; and Ahmad Jum'ah, a member of the Engineers Syndicate; on the grounds that the police accusations "lack seriousness." The two were arrested while campaigning in their constituency. In al-Minya, police arrested a number of supporters of Dr. Nabil al-Jarihi, the head of the Doctors Syndicate in al-Minya and a candidate of the Islamic Alliance in the city. In Cairo's al-Jammaliyah district the owner of a cafe was threatened with arrest and his license revoked if he allowed meetings between the Islamic candidates and the people in his cafe, the report adds.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENOUNCES TRIALS, TORTURE

An approximately 600-word unattributed report on a statement by Amnesty International denouncing the trial of civilians before military courts is published on pages 1 and 8. The statement issued "this week" expresses concern over the government's arrest of civilians, members of the professional associations, and MB members and calls for the immediate and unconditional release of those detained in January and October 1995. The organization expresses the belief that the detained civilians, mostly from the MB, are not advocates of violence and therefore, they are "prisoners of conscience." The statement referred to a news conference held at the National Press Club in Washington this week by a lawyer

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who visited Egypt recently on a fact-finding mission. In his news conference, the U.S. lawyer expressed his "astonishment" at the magnitude of human right abuse in Egypt, particularly with respect to the trial of civilians by military courts. He noted that since January, 483 civilians have been referred to military courts, which issued death sentences against 64 of them. So far, the death sentence has been carried out against 46 persons. He added that 26 prisoners have died in prison, particularly at the al-Wadi al-Jadid Prison.

CANDIDATES SUPPORT ELECTION-MONITORING COMMITTEE

An approximately 300-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi on page 1 says that the Egyptian committee for monitoring the elections, an independent committee formed by intellectuals and public figures, has started to receive power of attorney from candidates who want the committee members to represent them at polling stations. Forty candidates have so far given their power of attorney to the committee, the report adds. The report notes that in the past few days the committee was the target of an "unjust" offensive by the prime minister, the interior minister, and the government press. Committee Secretary General Dr. Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim has stated that the committee was established by the "free will" of a group of individuals representing themselves or non-governmental organizations. He added that the committee is independent and neutral and is not in violation of the Constitution.

PARTY LEADER VIEWS POLITICAL REFORMS, SHURA

In an approximately 1,200-word article entitled "Stand Behind the Labor Party Candidates" on pages 1 and 8, Labor Party Chairman Ibrahim Shukri notes that the general terms used in writing the political programs of different parties may seem to suggest that these programs look alike. For this reason, it is necessary to explain in some detail certain features of the Labor Party program, beginning with democracy, he adds. Shukri notes that achieving democracy is instrumental in introducing the required political reforms, eliminating all signs of "persecution," and revoking the ill-reputed laws. Political reforms, like all other aspects of reform, rely on the provisions of the Islamic shari'ah, he adds.

Summing up his party's views on the hoped-for political reforms, Shukri say they start with the need for a new Constitution that protects the peoples' rights and changes the way of running the country. The new Constitution, a draft of which has been prepared by Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Hilmi Murad and a number of legal jurists but dismissed by the government as "opposition talk," balances the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities and prevents the executive authority from marginalizing the others, he adds. It safeguards the people's political and social rights and ends the trial of civilians before military courts. He adds that the Labor Party sees the "shura," or consultation, as an essential aspect of democracy. Shura means the participation of all individuals in society in "promoting virtue and prohibiting vice." Concluding, Shukri adds: "Our Islamic mottoes and vision, including the shura that I am talking about here, provide the best way for ending the widespread corruption in society."

DETAINEE SAYS TRIAL VICTORY FOR MB

Dr. al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji, one of the MB figures being tried before a military court, writes an approximately 500- word article on page 2 entitled "Thoughts From Behind Bars." In his article, given to a journalist during the trial, al-Miliji views the longstanding "tension" between the MB and the government since the twenties. Throughout this period, he adds, governments dealt "unjust blows" to the group after accusing it of being a terrorist movement that uses violence to reach power. This happened in 1948 after the Palestine war, in 1954, in 1981, and in 1995.

However, he adds, this time it is different, because the "national Islamic movement has succeeded in demonstrating the validity of its method for political change through lawful channels, such as professional associations, student unions, local councils, teachers' clubs, and the People's Assembly." This has prompted observers in Egypt and abroad to admit that the "Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamic movement free of violence that calls for the rotation of power through the conventional democratic mechanisms known to the world. Chief among them is the free and fair elections by which peoples determine their own fate with their own hands." He notes that the current trial of 82 MB members, who include highly skilled professionals, gives "conclusive" evidence of the Brothers' patriotism and their dedication to serving their country. Because all the "normal" judicial bodies have refused to try these honest men under "fabricated" charges, he adds, the "forces of injustice" had no choice but to disregard the law and try them "under the threat of machine guns" in a "military barracks in the middle of the desert." This in itself is a sign of "victory" for the "peaceful jihad" championed by the MB for over 67 years, he concludes.

EDITOR COMMENTS ON RABIN'S FUNERAL, TRIAL

Chief Editor Majdi Husayn writes an approximately 2,500-word article on page 2 entitled "Paying Allegiance

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to Rabin, Dead and Alive." Husayn begins by saying that a "state of panic" has gripped most of our Arab leaders following the death of "their elderly brother" Rabin. Rabin's assassination, he adds, has caused them to suffer from a mixture of "concern, sadness, and commitment," concern for the "march of capitulation," sadness for the "comrade-in-jihad," and commitment to the "desires of Clinton," who felt that one of his most important foreign policy accomplishment was about to go up in smoke. President Mubarak, he added, broke his rule of refusing to visit Israel by visiting occupied Jerusalem.

The funeral of Rabin, he adds, provided a golden opportunity to see "our real picture." Explaining, Husayn writes: "In Rabin's funeral we saw the leaders of the Arab nation defeated and their heads down." Husayn notes that he does not wish to review Rabin's "black history." Instead, he refers to his role in the issue of the Egyptian POW's and the "alleged" peace with the Palestinians. He notes that Rabin was one of the most prominent figures against whom accusatory fingers were pointed in the murder of the Egyptian POW's. He points out that our rulers think that the people will forget the issue of the POW's, as they did with the question of the Israeli nuclear program, but they are wrong because the people cannot forget such fateful matters. He notes that under the so-called peace process advocated by Rabin and his Labor Party, the Palestinian areas will become "isolated pockets" surrounded by the Israeli Army. Turning to the funeral, Husayn said that the venue for the funeral should have given the Arab leaders "a good reason" to boycott it. He adds: "I do not know why they should protest the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem in 1999. Why should the rulers of Egypt and the Arabs protest if they themselves are travelling to usurped and occupied Jerusalem to pay allegiance to and eulogize the leader of occupation and usurpation?"

In another part of his article, Husayn notes that the government's audacity has reached the point of striking out the names of 14,000 candidates in the student union elections. This happened only two weeks before the parliamentary elections, which they swear will be fair, he adds. He notes that while he was a student under what is known as the "totalitarian" era, it was not possible to ban candidates, let alone arrest them. He adds: "But now and 20 years into the multi-party system and the most flourishing era of democracy, crushing the student movement has become a routine procedure." Concluding, he recalls a question a journalist asked him about his trial, which is scheduled to begin on 15 November, and if he was optimistic about the future. To this, he answered: "I am very optimistic about the future, for things have deteriorated so much that it is not possible to expect something worse."

MB'S AL-HUDAYBI VIEWS RABIN'S DEATH

Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, MB deputy guide and official spokesman, writes an approximately 1,500-word article on page 5 entitled "Rabin: A Dove of Peace or the Head of Treachery and Terrorism?" Al-Hudaybi notes that Rabin, whose hands "are stained by the blood of Arabs and Muslims," has turned into a peace advocate who deserves the "shedding of tears" and eulogy in the official media. He adds: "In an unprecedented act, those who are yet to hold treaties with the intruding enemy rushed along with those who preceded them in holding these treaties to Jerusalem to take part in the funeral of the peace advocate." It was the biggest "brainwashing" operation of Arab and Islamic minds by the Arab official media in an attempt to make the Arabs forget the hundreds of thousands killed by Rabin, he adds. He notes that the Arab official media, which tried to "beautify" Rabin's image and portray his assassination as a "tragedy" for the so-called peace, failed to take notice of how the government of the "Zionist enemy" handled the matter. Explaining, he adds that no martial laws or emergency laws were declared, "thousands" of people were not arrested, and the relatives of the Zionist who killed Rabin were not hung upside down in the Zionist police stations, as is the custom among the Arabs.

Instead, the "Zionist" interior minister said that the government's handling of the issue will be according to democratic practices. He adds: "Perhaps this is one of the reasons for the continued survival of a usurping and intruding entity made up of a few million amidst an Arab and Islamic gathering of hundreds of millions, or actually more than 1 billion people."

In contrast, he adds, the government of Egypt, which is on the threshold of new parliamentary elections, has been waging arrest campaigns against the "moderate Islamic current" since January. Dozens of elite intellectuals and professionals and even people who fought in the Palestine war have been targeted and referred to military courts "without guilt." He notes that those who made sacrifices on the land of Palestine will not be dissuaded from continuing their righteous path by verdicts issued against them by military courts. In conclusion, al-Hudaybi affirms that those engaged in promoting the call of God will not change their method, for they believe that right will be victorious and that the "detention of honest and innocent people behind bars without proof or guilt will not guarantee the perpetual survival of the Zionist entity."

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PARTY OFFICIAL SAYS AL-SHARIF SPOILED ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

Labor Party Deputy Chairman Muhammad Hilmi Murad, in an approximately 1,000-word article on page 5, criticizes Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's allotment of a "few minutes" of air time for opposition parties to air their party programs on radio and television before the parliamentary elections. He points out that al-Sharif thinks he is doing the opposition parties a "favor" by permitting them to campaign on the radio and television, whereas the law governing the Radio and Television Union specifies that the union's purpose is to contribute to "expressing the demands of the masses of the people and their daily problems."

Under this law, political parties should be given the right to express their views on public issues over the radio and television on a "constant basis," not only during the elections, he adds. He notes that the minister specified that either the party chairman or secretary general must explain the party program, which is aired at a time chosen by the radio and television. Instead, he argues, the minister should have acted "democratically" by inviting party representatives for consultations on how to organize the media campaigning if the real purpose is to promote democracy.

ISLAMIC GROUP PLANNING MURDER OF SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURE

The organization uncovered on 10 November had planned to "assassinate a senior political figure and carry out several suicide operations against vital targets, including the State Security Intelligence Department in Lazughli," a responsible security source has stated. In an approximately 250-word report by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi on page 8, the source adds that the type and quantity of weapons seized reveal an "escalation" by the Islamic Group against the security agencies. The weapons seized include Kalashnikovs and RPG's, which are only used to hit "armored" vehicles or bullet-proof cars, a sign that the group planned to hit the cars of "senior officials," the source adds.

WRITER CRITICIZES CLINTON'S SPEECH AT RABIN'S FUNERAL

Dr. Mahjub 'Umar, a regular writer in AL-SHA'B, comments in an approximately 3,000-word article on page 12 entitled "Clinton Commends Terrorism" on President Clinton's speech at the funeral of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. 'Umar notes that Rabin's funeral and the "provocative" statements and remarks made at the funeral left the simple people who followed the funeral no choice but to show their "real feelings" about the whole ceremony and express their "indignation" of the "hypocrisy" felt at the speeches of President Clinton and King Husayn. 'Umar notes that all the Arab papers published and received in Cairo were "unanimous" in not publishing the text of President Clinton's speech at Rabin's funeral, and they were right in doing so. Noting President Clinton's use of the Jewish "skullcap" and Hebrew words from the Torah in his speech, 'Umar adds: "All this is understood and is interpreted by all the people to mean that what taught Clinton to love Rabin and Israel and what drove him to tears was the 1996 U.S. elections, in which Clinton has an eye on the money and the votes of the U.S. Jews."

'Umar points out that what concerns the Arabs in Clinton's speech is his reference to Rabin's "struggle for Israel's independence," or in other words, the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. He notes that during this war, which Clinton uses the "Israeli term" to refer to it, the Palestinians' lands were usurped, "massacres" such as the Dayr Yasin massacre were committed, and the UN Resolutions on the partition of Palestine were violated, and Rabin was involved in all these battles and massacres.

Another credit that President Clinton gave Rabin, 'Umar adds, is Rabin's contribution in "making the desert green." He notes that this is a common "Zionist lie" promoted by the "Zionist" leaders since the beginning of the century, when they depicted Palestine as a "barren" land to which they invited the European Jews to cultivate and cleanse of "snakes." Noting that Clinton has no right to "change history or geography," 'Umar points out that since the dawn of history Palestine has been "green" and the scene of an ancient civilization. He asks: "Has Clinton not read about the land of milk and honey? Could the barren land, which Clinton talked about, produce milk and honey?"

Concluding, 'Umar notes that there could be some benefit from Clinton's words about Rabin. He explains: "From now on it will be possible to use the terms he used to describe Rabin's acts and to talk about the peoples' resistance and struggle for independence. It will be hard then for the U.S. media organs to brand as terrorists those who use violence to defend what they believe to be their right. Clinton has praised the terrorist Rabin. By so doing, he has praised terrorism and lost credibility in the eyes of the world, particularly the Arabs and Muslims."

MB'S MASHHUR SAYS ALLIANCE INTACT

MB Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur, in a boxed comment in the middle of al-Hudaybi's article on page 5 entitled "The Alliance Exists and is Strong," affirms that the "alliance between the Brothers and the Labor Party

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exists, is strong, and is certain, praise be to God." He adds: "The Brothers are fully supported and welcomed by supporters of the Labor Party, just as the Labor Party candidates receive the same backing from the Brothers. We are pleased by this and certainly demand it of our brothers, because it is a duty for which they made a pledge and an alliance. An honest Muslim fulfills his pledge and keeps his promise. So none of the Brothers should pay attention to anything said to the contrary or to any malicious rumor. Let everyone work together in cooperation toward what is desirable and accepted by God."

CANDIDATE DEFENDS ISLAMIC PROGRAM IN ELECTIONS

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, deputy head of the Journalists Syndicate and a candidate in the upcoming parliamentary elections, writes in his regular column on page 12 that in democratic countries candidates have "ample" freedom to contact voters and campaign. But in police-states, "such as our country", the situation is different, he adds. In such countries, elections are governed by the Emergency Law, which places "tough restrictions" on public freedoms.

He notes that while campaigning with his colleague Ahmad Jum'ah in Bulaq in his constituency, he was surrounded by the people, which is very natural for any "successful candidate." However, he adds, the authorities considered this an "unlawful gathering" and arrested the two of them. He notes that the leaflets found in his possession were nothing more than the "Islamic current's program" for the elections, which he intends to implement if elected to the People's Assembly.

He adds: "I see this program as a strong blow to those who hate Islam, those impressed by Europe who advocate the separation between religion and state and who view our religion in a very backward way." He adds: "Our proposed Islamic program is the complete opposite of what the enemies of our religion are saying. It underlines public freedoms, deplores the emergency law, and clearly sides with the poor and middle classes." As for national unity, he notes that the Islamic program makes no distinction between Muslims and Christians. Regarding women, he adds: "As for women, we refuse to confine them to their homes but believe that they have an important role to play in society, in addition to motherhood and caring for their children, which is the biggest job in the world."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 21 Nov

NC2811135295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 21 November edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, LABOR PARTY CONDEMN ISLAMABAD BOMBING

In a banner headline, the paper highlights Labor Party and Muslim Brotherhood denunciation of the attack against the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan. In a 1,000-word report by Rabi' Shahin on pages 1 and 8, a Muslim Brotherhood statement is cited as saying that "this criminal, treacherous incident can never be attributed to Islam, the religion that advocates tolerance, preserves life, and strongly condemns any form of aggression against the human soul." The statement is further cited as saying that the "brutal aggression" against the embassy "can never be justified. It is religiously, legally, and humanly unacceptable. It conflicts with sound human nature, and can be received only be unanimous condemnation and denunciation."

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri is cited as saying that the bombing of the embassy is a "treacherous act that no sane man could have committed." He adds: "The Labor Party has repeatedly condemned all acts of violence and sabotage in Egypt and abroad. These acts do not solve problems; rather, they make things worse." The rest of the report cites remarks by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa following the explosion and other factual information related to the bombing.

BROTHERHOOD'S MASHHUR ADDRESSES 'OPPRESSORS,' 'OPPRESSED'

In his regular page-5 column, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur writes 1,800 words in which he addresses both the "oppressors" and the "oppressed" in the country, reminding the former of God's punishment in the afterlife, and urging the latter to remain patient in the face of injustice. "You are the

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weak," he tells those who "oppress" Muslim youths and preachers for Islam. "This material power and these soldiers will not do you any good when you stand before God. Death will inevitably come to you, and your power will not stop you from dying." Warning the oppressors of God's severe punishment on judgment day, Mashhur says: "If you knew, oppressors, that those against whom you are fighting are not working for worldly benefits or posts, but for God's religion and call, you would realize that you are fighting God's call in the persons of these youths." He says Muslim youths and preachers are being subjected to "detention, torture, and killing" although they, "especially Muslim Brotherhood members, have proven to be pursuing noble objectives and using moderate methods away from violence and terrorism." He reiterates his argument that the Brothers are not seeking power for themselves, but want the Islamic shari'ah to be applied, which "is the duty of every male and female Muslim."

Maintaining that every action causes a reaction, Mashhur says that "injustice generates annoyance, disgruntledness, and attempts to remove this injustice." He adds: "Those causing the injustice know this, but they meet the reaction with further unjust measures, prompting a stronger reaction. Thus, we find that the oppressors are anxious and insecure most of the time and in most of their movements. Oppression does not bring them security or relief."

Mashhur urges the oppressors to abandon injustice and to replace it with people's love, confidence, and cooperation. He calls on them to repent to God and reminds them that this life will one day come to an end.

Addressing the oppressed Muslim youths, Mashhur tells them that they should be proud because they are working for their God and religion. He urges them to show patience and resilience, reminding them of the suffering experienced by Prophet Muhammad in his early preaching for Islam. He urges them to adhere to their creed and assures them that "the oppressors are the weak because they cannot budge you from this creed." Repeating the Muslim Brotherhood's claim of peaceful preaching for Islam, Mashhur says: "Be aware, my oppressed brother, that the killing of an oppressor does not end oppression. It is patience, preparation of public opinion, and education of young people that automatically end injustice and oppression." He adds: "The Muslim Brothers do not shed the blood of Muslims; they use persuasion, even if this takes a long time. We do not miss any opportunity in our media, propaganda, guidance, and education effort."

MILITARY TRIAL OF BROTHERHOOD LEADERS REPORTED, CONDEMNED

A 1,500-word report by Dawud Husayn on page 3 details the latest military court session in the trial of 33 Muslim Brotherhood leaders. The report says all the prosecution witnesses, who are security officers, admitted that they arrested the defendants and searched their houses without obtaining the prosecution's permission. The report also cites contradictions in the officers' statements and says some of them even failed to note the addresses of the houses and offices they claimed to have searched.

On page 8 the paper publishes a 600-word statement by the Muslim Brotherhood members who are being tried by the military court. The statement reiterates the argument that the trial is politically motivated; namely, to prevent the defendants from running for the People's Assembly. It notes that "all political trends" in the country condemned the trial, and it urges the military court to await the constitutional court ruling regarding the trial's constitutionality.

On page 12 the paper publishes the names of 100 new signatories to a statement condemning the referral of Muslim Brotherhood leaders to military trial. The new list includes names of foreign Islamic leaders, such as the leader of the Pakistani Islamic group, the leader of the Malaysian Islamic Party, and Indonesian, Sudanese, Bosnian, Philippine, Bengladeshi, and Palestinian Islamists.

In a 1,000-word article on page 5, columnist Muhammad Hilmi Murad says that military courts are not above the law and he discusses why the military court trying the Muslim Brotherhood leaders cannot legally pass sentences before the constitutional court gives its ruling on a lawsuit contesting the legality of referring civilians to the military judiciary.

ISLAMIC CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HARASSED

A 700-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi on pages 1 and 8 cites Dr. Sa'id al-Najjar, chairman of the Egyptian committee for monitoring elections, as saying that several international human rights organizations expressed solidarity with and support for the committee, which the Egyptian Government does not recognize. The report says that the committee reviewed reports on its monitoring activity, and noted that irregularities in some constituencies have been registered.

The paper publishes several brief items on front and inside pages on "security harassment" against Islamic Alliance candidates. This harassment reportedly includes

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detaining candidates and their supporters and preventing them from holding campaign rallies or displaying election posters.

In a 1,000-word column on pages 1 and 8, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri comments on the upcoming People's Assembly elections. He refers to the arrests of supporters of Islamic Alliance candidates while distributing election propaganda material, calling this "clear terrorism against our supporters and a flagrant violation of equal opportunity and the integrity of the election process." He complains that "the short period set for campaigning greatly affects the chances of the opposition candidates to present themselves to the electorate." Shukri also criticizes the referral of civilians to military court and the trial of Ahmad Husayn, chief editor of AL-SHA'B, under law No. 93 of 1995.

In a 3,000-word column on page 2, Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn blames the government for poverty, disease, and ignorance in Egypt. He says the government, "which is professional in all forms of cheating," is preparing to rig the elections. Noting that the government bans election rallies by the opposition, he wonders how the elections can be fair.

MUSLIMS VOTING FOR COPTS IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS VIEWED

In a 400-word article on page 3, Islamic scholar Dr. Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa says that Copts and women can be nominated and elected to the People's Assembly. Commenting on Islamic principles that Muslims should not be led by non-Muslims or by women, al-'Awwa says that these principles do not apply here. He explains that this is because Assembly members are only representatives of their constituents, not their leaders.

In a 100-word unattributed report also on page 3, the paper says that in view of the importance of the above opinion, it sought comments from Islamic thinkers Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi, and Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah. "They fully agreed" with Dr. al-'Awwa, the report says.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT UNIVERSITIES CONTINUE

A 300-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Mu'tazz al-Hadidi on pages 1 and 8, and an 800-word unattributed report on page 3, cite "fresh" demonstrations at various Egyptian universities "to protest oppression of freedoms, arrest of students, military trials, and arbitrary measures against students." The reports detail the various marches and protests at universities, arrests of students, and security sieges around buildings and dorms. The reports say that tear gas was used against the demonstrators and that dozens of students were injured.

ON ISRAEL EXTENDING INFLUENCE THROUGH MIDEAST MARKET

In a 2,500-word article on page 10, columnist Dr. Mahjub 'Umar analyzes the character and policy of Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and concludes that he is using the momentum created by Rabin's assassination to implement his economic plans in the Middle East.

On page 9, a 500-word article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah refers to Peres' statement in which he, for the first time, defined Israel's border. Peres acknowledged that the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon are not part of Israel. Commenting on this, the writer says that under the concept of Mideasternism, the border will not be important, and what matters is influence, which Israel is seeking to extend over the whole region.

Islamic World League Has New Secretary General

96AE0002B Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 21 Oct 95 p 5

[Article by Khalaf al-Ghamidi and Ahmad 'Amir Sa'd in Mecca, and 'Abdallah al-'Urayfij in Riyadh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency Dr. 'Abdallah Ibn-Salih Ibn-'Ubayd expressed his deep gratitude to the Custodian of Mecca and Medina, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-'Aziz, for his generous, royal confidence in him, as manifested by the King's nomination of him to succeed His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali in the post of secretary general of the Islamic World League.

In a telephone conversation with 'UKAZ from his residence in Medina, Dr. Ibn-'Ubayd said that the trust placed in him through this nomination by the custodian of Mecca and Medina is a source of pride and responsibility. He prayed to God, the supreme and almighty, to be appointed to this post. He said: "I hope that we will meet with the favorable judgment of the ruler, may God protect him, and the eminent members of the Islamic World League's constituent assembly." [passage omitted]

Dr. Ibn-'Ubayd prayed to God to grant him success in his work to serve the goals sought by Muslims in the Islamic World League, which is striving to promote cohesion, solidarity, and continuity among Muslims and thus elevate the banner of Islam.

He expressed his thanks and esteem to His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Ibn-Muhammad 'Ali for his brilliant efforts in the service of Islam and Muslims. He stressed the

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lofty, Islamic stature of the Islamic World League secretariat and its role vis-a-vis this stature. He pointed to the importance of continuity in Islamic action to serve Islam and Muslims and to spread Islam throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Biography of His Excellency Dr. 'Abdallah Ibn Salih Ibn-'Ubayd

Birth and Education

- Born in al-Bada'i, in the area of al-Qasim in 1361 AH [1942-43].
- Obtained his bachelor's degree in the Arabic language from Imam Muhammad Ibn-Sa'ud Islamic University in Riyadh in 1388 AH [1968-69].
- Obtained his master's degree in curriculums and educational evaluation from Oklahoma State University in the United States in 1397 AH [1976-77].
- Obtained his doctorate degree in the same discipline from the University of Oklahoma in 1399 AH [1978-79].
- Completed military training for university graduate officers in 1400 AH [1979-80].

Professional Life

- Began his professional life on 1/7/1383 AH [1 June 1963] as deputy general supervisor of girls education in al-Zulfi.
- Served as an editor in the Defense and Aviation Ministry in 1383 AH [1963-64] and as an editor in the Royal Saudi Armed Forces in 1386 AH [1966-67].
- Served as an Arabic language instructor at King Faysal Air Force College in 1388 AH [1977-78].
- Taught leadership and personality development.
- Served as the director of the Office of the Commander, King Faysal Air Force College.
- In 1401 AH [1980-81], he was appointed deputy assistant for administrative affairs in the General Superintendency for the Affairs of Mecca and Medina.
- He was then appointed Deputy General Superintendent for the Affairs of the Noble Prophet's Sanctuary, General Superintendency for the Affairs of Mecca and Medina.
- In 1402 AH [1981-82], he was appointed vice president of the Islamic University in Medina.
- In 1403 AH [1982-83], he was appointed president of the Islamic University, a position that he held until 2/3/1416 AH [2 July 1995].
- The Custodian of the Mecca and Medina, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz nominated him, on 25/5/1416 AH [1 October 1995], to be secretary general of the Islamic World League.

Memberships

- Member of the Higher Council of Imam Muhammad Ibn-Sa'ud Islamic University for three years, starting on 26/5/1412 AH [4 December 1991].
- Member of the Council of Higher Education and Universities, starting on Jumada II, 1414 AH [November-December 1993].
- Member of the Council of the Call and Guidance, starting on Jumada I 1415 AH [October-November 1994].

Publications

- Papers on the Arabic language.
- Papers on leadership and personality development.
- Comparative study between the curriculums of the King Faysal Air Force College and the American Aviation College.
- Development of technical human resources in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Interview With Islamic Scholar al-Qardawi

96LH0017A Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 17 Oct 95 pp 20-24

[Interview with Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi, director of the Center for Studies of Prophetic Traditions and Biography at Qatar University, by Hasan 'Ali Daba in Doha; date not given: "Dialogue With West Necessary Because Islam Has Commanded Us To Have Dialogue With Others"—first five paragraphs are AL-MUJTAMA' introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will good triumph over evil? Can there be an end to the cultural struggle between Islamic civilization, though weak, and Western civilization, though it seems to rule the age?

Nothing indicates a change in the West's strategies toward Islam. Despite the clarity of the West's anti-Islamic theorizing, the Western citizen's informational ignorance about the Islamic world makes the task of hostile media and theorizing easy. So the Western—especially the European—consciousness remains controlled by a crusades complex. Recently, a number of Western scholars, such as John Esposito, have emerged as a type that respects the truth. He appears to be fair, denying the existence of an alleged Islamic danger to the West.

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Could the shadows of history disappear and modern dialogue correct the image of Islam in the West? Could the hostile theorizing disappear and dialogue with the West refute the alleged truths of such theorizing?

Because of his search and understanding in the realms of Islamic thought and because of his participation in the pioneering effort of the generation of the contemporary Islamic awakening throughout the world, east and west, he has been able to pave a distinguished road in contemporary Islamic life—the current of the Islamic mean, which has taken shape in his contribution of over 70 books and hundreds, indeed thousands, of sermons, lectures, conferences, and debates that he has given in his extensive tours throughout the world.

It was because of this intellectual search that we interviewed the erudite thinker and professor Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi, director of the Center for Studies of Prophetic Traditions and Biography at Qatar University, to learn his view of dialogue with the West.

[Daba] Can we begin our talk about dialogue with the West by defining the concept of the West?

[Al-Qardawi] We have to define the West with which we want to hold dialogue. The West is not merely a geographic region. When we say "the West," we mean a particular civilization and culture with certain elements and characteristics.

When we view the West as the possessor of the now dominant culture—the dominant civilization with its material-utilitarian character, that is not concerned with supernatural truths and that attributes no importance in life to God's sovereignty—then, when we hold dialogue with the West, it is, we believe, dialogue with the other. There is nothing to prevent a person from talking to those who disagree with him; indeed, we are commanded to do so, just as the Koran has commanded us to dispute with the People of the Book in the best manner: "Dispute not with the People of the Book save in the fairer manner, except for those of them that do wrong; and say, 'We believe in what has been sent down to us, and what has been sent down to you; our God and your God is One, and to Him we have surrendered.'" (Koran 29:46).

[Daba] Could the difference between what is sacred to Islam and what is sacred to the West be an obstacle to such dialogue?

[Al-Qardawi] We do not object on the basis of our religion to holding dialogue with others, although we think that we differ in many things, among them that what we hold sacred is not held sacred by them. Our premises are not their premises; our goals are not their goals; our means and methods are not their means and methods. Nonetheless, we are commanded to have dialogue with them and "dispute with them in the fairer manner."

Anyone who really reads the Koran finds it to be eminently a book of dialogue. The prophets debated with their peoples in dialogues that the Koran has recorded. Even more amazing is God's dialogue with his creatures. We find the Koran mentioning to us that, when God Almighty was about to create Adam, he said to the angels: "'I am setting in the earth a viceroy.' They said, 'What, wilt Thou set therein one who will do corruption there, and shed blood, while We proclaim Thy praise and call Thee Holy?' He said, 'Assuredly I know that you know not.'" (Koran 2:30).

Even more amazing is God's dialogue with his arch-enemy Iblis, how God permitted Iblis to debate with him: "Said He, 'Iblis, what prevented thee to bow thyself before that which I created with My own hands? Hast thou waxed proud, or art thou of the lofty ones?' Said he, 'I am better than he; Thou created me of fire, and him Thou created of clay.' Said He, 'Then go thou forth hence; thou art accursed. Upon thee shall rest My curse, till the Day of Doom.' Said he, 'My Lord, respite me till the day they shall be raised.' Said He, 'Thou art among the ones that are respited...'" (Koran 38:75-80).

This shows us that dialogue has a broad role and a wide place in Islamic thought and on the Islamic scene, beginning with the Koran, in the Prophetic traditions, and in the Islamic heritage, which is full of various dialogues of this sort.

Changed Position of Civilization

[Daba] Do you not see a difference between the relative positions of civilizations now and their positions in the past when the Muslims were a force with a civilization? Today, however, when Muslims are the weaker ones, how can dialogue take place?

[Al-Qardawi] Muslims in the past had a civilization. They were the masters of the world's premier civilization. They were the first world; now they are the third. Some might even be classified as "fourth world," if there were such a thing! But Muslims are strong in their culture, in the roots of their civilization, and in the great message with which God Almighty has honored them, the message of Islam. Being strong in this message, they possess what the world as a whole does not possess. They possess the eternal universal message that carries God's latest words to mankind. No religion, save that of the Muslims, possesses a heavenly document free of corruption or of alteration in word and sense. Only Muslims have the Koran.

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[Daba] Does dialogue mean moderating the rigor of Islam's intellectual and doctrinal position to draw others to Islam?

[Al-Qardawi] If we adhered to the etiquette of debate that Islam has prescribed, it would undoubtedly lead to rapprochement with others. In the verse that establishes the rules for summoning and dialogue, Islam commands us that we should call to the way of God "with wisdom and good admonition" [Koran 16:125] and that we should dispute "in the better manner." We find a difference in wording here. It merely says that summoning should be done "with wisdom and good admonition." However, when it comes to disputing, the verse is not content with "good disputation"; rather, it commands that one dispute "in the better manner." Why? It is because one admonishes those who agree: with one who agrees, it is sufficient that one admonish him with good admonition that softens his heart and arouses him, making him desire good and fear evil. Admonition need only be good. Disputation, however, is with one who disagrees, and it is not enough to dispute well with him. You must strive to dispute by the fairest means possible, speaking with him in the best of ways, the finest of methods, and the most courteous of expressions. If there are two ways—good and better—you must use the way that is better and fairer. This is what Islam has commanded.

Thus, we find the Koran teaching us as follows how to debate with others: "Say: 'Who provides for you out of the heavens and the earth?' Say: 'God.' Surely, either we or you are upon right guidance, or in manifest error." (Koran 34:24). Although he is sure that he is rightly guided and the others are in error, he wants to draw them into his camp. He says: "One of our two parties must be wrong and the other right; so we must discuss who is wrong and who is right, who of us is on the right way and who is in error." Then he says: "Say: 'You will not be questioned concerning our sins, neither shall we be questioned as to what you do.'" He might have said: "You will not be questioned as to what we have done, neither shall we be questioned as to what you do." Or, "You will not be questioned concerning our sins, neither shall we be questioned as to your sins"—which is what the parallelism demands. However, he attributed sinning to himself and those on his side: "You will not be questioned concerning our sins."

If we have sinned, you will not be questioned about our sins. However, he did not say: "And we shall not be questioned about your sins"—so as not to attribute sinning to them. Rather, he said: "We shall not be questioned as to what you do." All this is a kind of mitigation, drawing closer, and removing anything that might stir up rancor and widen the gap between the two sides. This is what dialogue "by the fairest means" implies.

No Abandoning of Fundamentals

[Daba] Does successful dialogue between two differing groups require that each of them abandon something and hold to other things? Or does dialogue involve looking for points of closeness rather than offering concession?

[Al-Qardawi] There are things one cannot abandon. We try to mention points of agreement, but that does not mean that I abandon anything I consider fundamental. When the pagan polytheists of Quraysh wanted to negotiate with the Prophet on terms that he would abandon the worship of Allah for a time—he would worship their gods for a time, and they would worship his God for a time so as to bring the two sides closer together—the terms were rejected. The sura that decisively resolved the issue was then revealed: "Say:'O unbelievers.'" (Koran 109). It was the first time that the polytheists were addressed with the words "O unbelievers." In addressing the polytheists, the Koran usually says, "O people." It addresses the Jews and Christians as "O people of the Book" or as "O you who have been given the Book." This, too, is a matter of dialogue in the fairer way: you choose the most delicate expressions and those closest to the heart of the person you address. Here, however, he said: "O unbelievers, I serve not what you serve, and you are not serving what I serve, nor am I serving what you have served, neither are you serving what I serve. To you your religion, and to me my religion!" (Koran 109:1-6). He spoke with this repetition and this emphasis. Some things require decisiveness. Islam cannot abandon its doctrines, values, religious duties, and ethics. Concession is utterly impossible; and so it is "To you your religion, and to me my religion!"

Clear Fundamentals: Objects of Islamic Agreement

[Daba] What things in your view constitute fundamentals that cannot be conceded in dialogue with the West? The disagreements among Muslims themselves are not hidden. Are the fundamentals finally subject to disagreement?

[Al-Qardawi] There are things over which people can disagree with each other; but, when we want to engage in dialogue with others, we must be clear about the real form of Islam as indicated by clear and decisive texts. We must distinguish between what is definite and what is conjectural. The things to which we hold fast, for which we fight, and not an atom of which we abandon are the things that are definite. Conjectural matters, individual judgments, or idle talk, matters subject to differing interpretations, understandings, and

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a multitude of individual opinions—these are things we should not put at the beginning of dialogue between us and others.

The question of *jihad* in the way of God to defend the land, honor, and things that are sacred is a matter on which there is no argument. However, *jihad* to attack the world, as some imagine it, is out of the question. Here we hold what such modern Islamic scholars as Shaykh Rashid Rida, Shaykh Shaltut, Shaykh 'Abdallah Diraz, Shaykh Abu Zahrah, and Shaykh al-Ghazali have held. All of them hold that *jihad* in Islam is to defend religion, the state, things that are sacred, land, and honor; it is not to attack the world, as some imagine.

How Can International Culture Be a Common Denominator?

[Daba] In the context of discussing the relation between Islam and the West, the idea of international culture is proposed as a common denominator in the dialogue between the two. International culture means the universal culture that is composed of human characteristics that embrace all Eastern and Western cultures, vitalize the individual conscience, and protect the interests of the community at the same time. Do you see the possible existence of such an international culture as a common denominator for dialogue?

[Al-Qardawi] This really is a description of Islamic culture. The culture with these characteristics is Islamic culture. In terms of what exists and is real, there is no universal or international culture. Some people want to make an international culture out of the dominant Western culture, but this is wrong. It is an international culture in the sense that it is widespread in the world, dominates and controls thought, and controls the world's media and means of education. That much is true, but it is not the international culture. There are cultures different from it in the East and the West. There is Japanese culture, Chinese culture, Indian culture, Islamic culture, and the African cultures.

Therefore, there is no universal world culture, unless one wants to have a culture imposed on everyone. We start from a plurality of cultures, even though we think that our culture is the one that could bring about what you mentioned in your question: "a culture that shows regard for the individual, vitalizes the individual conscience, protects the interests of the community, links earth to heaven, and realizes spiritual and material values." We think that Islamic culture is this culture. Yet we did not impose our culture on the world by force when our culture was dominant and when our civilization was the leader in the golden age of Islamic civilization. We accommodated the other cultures. Islam did not impose its culture on people; it left the others and their religions. It did not impose Islamic doctrines, worship, religious duties, or prohibitions on them. It did not impose the payment of alms (*zakah*) on people. Why?—because, although *zakah* is a monetary tax, it is a religious observance, one of the cornerstones of Islam. Islam did not wish to impose on the protected minorities (*ahl al-dhimmah*), who jurists said were people of the House of Islam, meaning bearers of Islamic nationality or citizenship in the Islamic state—it did not impose the payment of alms on them because that would impose a religious observance on them. It would have been contrary to Islamic tolerance, and so *zakah* was not imposed on them. Neither was *jihad* imposed on them. *Jihad* is defense of land, home, religion, and state; but, although defensive, it is also a religious duty—indeed, one of the most important ways by which a Muslim draws near to the Lord. Therefore, something was imposed both as an alternative to *zakah* and as an alternative to *jihad*; this was the so-called *jizyah*. What is *jizyah*? It is money that the protected minorities pay instead of the *zakah* that Muslims pay and instead of *jihad*. The one pays from his money; the other pays from his blood. They were told: Pay something in order to be a member of the Islamic state enjoying its protection; you shall have the benefit that Muslims have and the obligation that they have.

Islam respects cultural multiplicity because, as long as there are many religions, there must also be cultures that express these religions, their beliefs, their values, and the religious observances and duties they proclaim and advocate. The one follows from the other.

Dialogue: Duty and Necessity

[Daba] In your book, "Priorities of the Islamic Movement," you said that dialogue with the West was a duty and necessity. "It is," you said, "dialogue on the religious level, the intellectual level, and the political level." What do you mean by all this?

[Al-Qardawi] I said in the book that we live in a world whose parts have drawn close to each other—so that one writer has said that "the world has become a single village that we call our big village." Indeed, it is no longer a big village; it is a small village, because at one end of the world you know in minutes what is happening at the other end. The world has grown very close together, so that people cannot remain isolated from others. If we want to live with our Islam, we must hold dialogue with others to remove the veil that has covered people's minds, the veil over their eyes, the impression in their hearts, and the suspicions that have settled in their minds in ages past. People have inherited beliefs about Islam, the Koran, Muhammad, Islamic culture, and Islamic law from the age of the

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crusades—mistaken beliefs or lies. We must make an effort to meet with such people, draw closer to them, and explain to them that Muslims are not wild animals, that Islam is not a predatory ghoul, that the proponents of Islam are not terrorists as you imagine. This cannot be done by isolation from the world and by reacting angrily to these people. It has to take place by communication and by dialogue with them.

Experience With Orientalists

[Daba] Do you think that dialogue with Western clergymen can bear fruit?

[Al-Qardawi] I met with some about three years ago. Shaykh Muhammad al—Ghazali and I were on a visit to Germany, and we met with a number of orientalists, including some priests. We met for a whole day for a session of dialogue. I found—I felt it, and Shaykh al-Ghazali felt it with me—that the meeting was fruitful. Many suspicions disappeared from people's minds. Direct meeting has its advantage: questions are followed by answers. I think there are people with whom dialogue can be beneficial. Undoubtedly, there are also bigoted people with whom dialogue cannot be beneficial. They are like the people about whom God said: "When thou recitest the Koran, We place between thee, and those who do not believe in the world to come, a curtain obstructing, and We lay veils upon their hearts lest they understand it, and in their ears heaviness. And when thou mentionest thy Lord only in the Koran, they turn in their traces in aversion." (Koran 17:45-46). This sort exists, but there are others who are unbiased. We look for those who are unbiased and accepting and who make logic the judge. We have seen many Westerners who have been fair to Muslims, to Islamic culture, civilization, and history, and to the modern Islamic revival. We now read articles in newspapers by Western journalists and writers who speak well about Islam. The U.S. writer, John Esposito, wrote that the Islamic danger is a figment of the imagination, not a reality. There are many other writers who recognize the debt owed to Islam and the priority in time of Islamic civilization and who recognize that the positive aspects of the Islamic awakening outnumber the negative ones.

So I think that dialogue is important and desirable on the religious level with priests and clergymen and on the intellectual level with orientalists and writers who take an interest in Islam.

Western Concept of the Person, the Head Scarf

[Daba] Let me move to an important point: the West's refusal to recognize the Muslim's citizenship rights as exemplified by what is happening in France—especially as regards Muslim women and the rejection of the Muslim woman's head scarf by the French West.

[Al-Qardawi] One is not accorded dignity or freedom as a person there; only the person who conforms to the society and its religion and dominant culture obtains these things. If a person deviates from what is dominant—even if a person of French lineage converted to Islam—he would no longer have rights. His daughter or his wife would not have the right to wear a head scarf or go to school. He would be forced to remove his wife's head scarf. Where is the person's dignity or freedom? There is no longer any freedom for the person. If you respect someone as a person, you have to respect his belief, his culture, and the values in which he believes. He believes that the head scarf is a duty and that he is not allowed by religion to remove his wife's head scarf. The girl or the woman says that it may not be removed: "It is a sin for me for which I shall go to hell." How can you force hellfire and God's anger on a woman? What kind of culture is this? What freedom? What dignity of the person is there if he cannot exercise his religious beliefs, rituals, and duties under the aegis of this culture and this freedom?

Confiscation of "Permitted and Forbidden"—Rejection of Dialogue?

[Daba] Although France backed down and later canceled the order, do you consider the confiscation of your book, "Permitted and Forbidden in Islam," rejection by the West, represented by France, of dialogue with Islam?

[Al-Qardawi] As I said at the time, it was part of the campaign against Islam in those countries. In particular, we should note that the affair began on 12 October, following the conference on dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims that I attended in France. The conference had a good effect, but one of the heated questions raised at it was the question of the head scarf. I presented the French participants with an unanswerable argument. They said that the head scarf was a religious symbol. I said to them that it was not a religious symbol: A symbol has no function but to serve as a declaration and an emblem, like the cross on a Christian's breast or the skull cap on a Jew's head. These are, in fact, religious symbols with no other function than to announce that this is a Jew or this is a Christian. The head scarf, however, has a function—the function of covering and modesty. The Muslim woman is commanded to behave modestly, to cover her hair, her neck, and her throat. This is the meaning of the head scarf. Even if one supposes it is a symbol, you have not forbidden the Christian to put the cross on his breast; you have not forbidden the Jew to put a skull cap on

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his head. Why do you forbid the Muslim? You have even allowed the Sikh to wear the Sikh turban and get a license to drive a motorcycle without wearing a metal helmet because of his Sikh's turban.

These are all remnants of the crusades, remnants of old complexes.

Future of Relations Between Islam and the West

[Daba] Do you think there is a future for relations between Islam and the West in the present age?

[Al-Qardawi] I think that relations could develop, improve, and assume a positive role if Muslims have confidence in themselves and grasp "the most firm handle, unbreaking" (Koran 2:256), the handle of great Islam, and if they stand as one community with its cultural, human, and religious message, its past and its heritage, and its hoped-for future.

If only the West could understand Muslims, understand this community, and realize that no community can impose itself on the world and live by itself, with others having no right to life! People must live as they wish. The Islamic community is a venerable community, a great community, a community with a mission. It has the right to live for its mission and according to its belief. How does it harm Westerners that Muslims live as Muslims as God commanded them and as their religion obliges them, sanctioning what God has sanctioned, forbidding what God has forbidden, performing what God has enjoined, and taking as arbiter what God has legislated? What of this harms Westerners? Which is better for Western man: the Muslim who holds fast to his religion, who is mindful of God in matters small and great, who performs his duty and judges justly with those he likes and those he dislikes—"Let not detestation for a people move you not to be equitable" (Koran 5:8)—and who is tolerant toward others as Islam has commanded, as was the case of Muslims in the golden ages of their civilization?

What harms Westerners? Is it the Muslim who worships the Lord and abides by the ethics of this religion in his conduct with the Lord, with himself, with his family, with his fellow believers, and with others who differ from him in belief? Is this kind preferable, or the kind of person who has no religion and lives naked of religion? No belief guards him, no law rules him, no ethics lead him, and no values control him and direct his course.

I think it is better for Westerners to deal with a community that respects its religion and beliefs, that lives by them and for them, and that acts by and for its religion and to treat this community as equals.

Westerners must get rid of the old complexes they have inherited from the dark ages of the crusades.

If this view prevails, I think that dialogue can be fruitful and produce a good and friendly relationship.

We say to Westerners: Let us live by our religion, according to our beliefs, laws, and values, contributing, carrying out our duty, receiving our rights, harming no one and wronging no one.

Importance of Dialogue Within the Community

[Daba] Before I concluded my questions to Dr. al-Qardawi, I asked him about the importance of internal dialogue among members of the community, especially with those who espouse Western thinking or secularists.

[Al-Qardawi] I call for dialogue with them. National dialogue—we have welcomed dialogue with the nationalists. In October 1994, I attended a conference. I participated in the Islamic-Nationalist Dialogue Conference held in Beirut. I was one of those who helped prepare the Islamic paper. There is nothing to prevent our meeting on a compromise program, but without abandoning our fundamentals.

In my book that you mentioned, "Priorities of the Islamic Movement," I call for dialogue with secular minds. Some of these secularists are not hostile to Islam; they merely start from a lack of understanding of Islam. There is nothing to prevent our talking with them to bring them closer to us. The principle of dialogue is an accepted principle. There is no objection to it with those who disagree, as long as they are prepared to be fair and listen and for give and take in these areas.

[Daba] But some secularists aim to remove religion completely from life. How can there be dialogue between them and Islamists?

[Al-Qardawi] I have not advocated dialogue with all secularists, only with those who are reasonable and fair. There are, as I have said, secularists who are not hostile to religion. Some people are secularists like al-Nahhas Pasha, head of the Egyptian Wafd Party before the 1952 revolution, a man who prayed and fasted. He was religious after a fashion, but he did not understand the comprehensiveness of Islam or fathom the Islamic message as he should have. Perhaps had he had an opportunity to become acquainted with real Islam as the Koran revealed it, as Muhammad preached it, as the companions of the Prophet understood it, as the rightly guided caliphs implemented it, and as the first Islamic civilization embodied it—had he found someone to show this to him, explain it properly, and portray it correctly, he might have retreated from many of his ideas. But the pure secularist who rejects religion

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in general and Islam in particular, who thinks that religion should not emerge from human consciousness, who thinks that religion is a relation between human consciousness and the Lord—that if it must emerge, let it be only to the place of worship (mosque or church), and that it has no relation to life, so that he rejects the laws, values, and ordinances that religions have brought—with such a person dialogue has no meaning. Nevertheless, I might talk to him to refute him, as we did when we engaged in dialogue with some of the secularists.

Rector of Islamic University Interviewed

96AE0002A Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 20 Oct 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Dr. Salih Ibn-'Abdallah al-'Abbud, rector of the Islamic University in Medina, by Hasan Nayif al-Sharif; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Medina—His Excellency, Dr. Salih Ibn-'Abdallah al-'Abbud, the rector of the Islamic University in Medina, emphasized the importance of the university's role in conveying Islam's message and spreading religious awareness. In an interview that he granted to 'UKAZ, he said that the Islamic University bears the legacy of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, which is beneficial knowledge. Students representing 147 nationalities come to the university from throughout the Islamic world. Islam unites them in their identity. They then return to their countries as teachers.

To date, the university has graduated more than 10,000 doctors, professors, and shaykhs, who have become bright stars of knowledge in their countries. The university has also held summer courses abroad to train instructors of Arabic and Islamic culture.

Development Plans

Regarding development plans and programs that he intends to implement following his appointment to the post of rector, Dr. Salih Ibn-'Abdallah al-'Abbud said:

"The rulers' trust in me is precious, and I am proud of and honored by it. I pray to God for help and success in discharging this responsibility. Regarding development plans and projects for the university, we are pursuing our beloved kingdom's development plans. This pursuit ensures revitalization of development and progress; elimination of the obstacles posed by flaws that have been introduced to our creed and heretical doctrines in our true religion; movement on the correct path in a moderate manner; and the consolidation of sincere loyalty to Islam and Muslims through loyalty to God the sublime and exalted, friendly admonition to rulers, and commitment to the Muslim community. We also hope to promote the Arabic language by expanding the Department of Arabic for Speakers of Arabic as a Second Language, and we hope to formulate a plan to strengthen ties between our more than 10,000 alumni from the Islamic world, who have dispersed throughout the world to spread beneficial knowledge.

"We also hope to establish a full deanship to serve society and a deanship for advanced studies and academic research. We also hope to support the Center for the Service of the Sunna [the Prophet's statements and deeds, later established as legally binding precedents] and the Prophet's Biography through the establishment of positions for senior professors and researchers from among religious scholars, so that the center can optimally conduct its distinguished, academic activities.

"We also have high ambitions, which we are driven to realize by cooperation among our colleagues and the university's vice-rectors, deans, and other officials and members. They have great aspirations, ambitious proposals for administrative and academic development, and an optimistic view, which has gladdened me and given me great determination and resplendent hope."

His excellency dealt in detail with the Islamic University's role in providing Arabic language instruction for speakers of Arabic as a second language, especially those who come from countries where English, French, and Spanish are spoken. He said that the university has a large Arabic language instruction department for the many students who need to strengthen their Arabic, which is the language of instruction in all of the university's colleges and schools. This department admits students from more than 140 different countries. The university also has an Arabic Language College for Advanced University Education, and it organizes summer courses in other countries.

Cooperation With Other Universities

He said that cooperation between the Islamic University in Medina and universities abroad in the areas of Islamic and academic research is reflected in the undertaking of many useful Islamic and academic research projects, the mutual exchange of expertise and curriculums, and the according of diploma equivalency. The university's role is not limited to instructing students from the Islamic countries. It also advances the goals of missionary work through its students' call to Islam, minus flaws, innovations, extremism, and excess.

He said that there is complete, integrated coordination between the Islamic University in Medina and Imam Muhammad Ibn-Sa'ud Islamic University and other universities in the kingdom within the consolidated system of the Higher Education Council, which is

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authorized in the Royal Decree of 4/6/1414 AH [19 November 1993].

Responding to a question about the Islamic University's role in organizing seminars and lectures, and its activities regarding Islamic issues, he said, "Each year, we organize a number of Islamic seminars and lectures in the large auditorium at the university's main building in Medina, at the university mosque, and at other places so that the university can participate actively in Saudi society. In addition, the university plays a major role in international conferences and in developing curriculums, lines of study, books, and publications on subjects related to missionary work and the principles of the religion."

Regarding whether there is any thought of starting a department for teaching missionary subjects to the wives of students from the Islamic countries, Dr. al-'Abbud said that the university has enough to do with the instruction and thorough preparation of students to call to God, the exalted and sublime. These students, in turn, teach and educate their wives. The purpose of the students' wives accompanying them is to promote the welfare of their families.

A Matter of Time and Measures

In response to a question regarding employment opportunities for graduates of the Islamic University, he stated that the diplomas granted by the university entailed the same employment and salary rights as diplomas from other universities. The Islamic University is held in high regard by the General Civil Service Administration. He said that plans to build a new campus are intended to integrate the university's buildings harmoniously by distributing their locations according to their functions, interrelationships, and services.

His excellency spoke at length about construction projects that have helped modernize and develop the university and accommodate the growth that it has witnessed. He said that the most salient of these projects are:

- A university administration building, at a cost of 19 million Saudi riyals [SR] [U.S. $5 million].
- Buildings for the Students Affairs, Admissions, and Registration deanships, at a cost of SR9.254 million [$2.47 million].
- Student housing, at a cost of SR48 million [$12.8 million].
- A student restaurant, at a cost of SR30 million [$8 million].
- Dar al-Hadith [House of Prophetic Tradition] in venerable Mecca, and associated facilities, at a cost of SR22 million [$5.9 million].
- Electricity plants within the university, at a cost of SR2 million [$0.5 million].
- Completion of the fencing around the university, at a cost of SR3 million [$0.8 million].
- Construction of athletic fields, at a cost of SR3.7 million [$0.99 million].

Stages of the University's Development

His Excellency Dr. al-'Abbud spoke of the university's stages of development. When the university was established in Medina, he stated that it comprised only one college, the College of Islamic Law, which opened its doors in Jumada II 1381 AH [November-December 1961]. In 1386 [1966-67], the College of the Call and Principles of Religion was established. Studies began at this college in Rajab [October-November] of the same year.

The College of the Holy Koran and Islamic Studies was the third college to be established at the university, in Shawwal 1394 AH [October-November 1974]. Then, the College of the Arabic Language and Department of Advanced Studies was established in 1395 AH [1974-75].

In 1396 AH [1976], the College of the Noble Hadith and Islamic Studies was established. It began operating in the academic year 1411-1412 AH [1990-91]. The existing branches of advanced studies at the university were merged with the existing departments in the colleges. The Islamic University now contains 11 instructional units.

At the end of his talk, his excellency prayed to God, the exalted and sublime, to protect our religion, country, and king, and our king's justly guided government, and to distance us from the evil of external and internal discord. He exhorted me, my brothers, my colleagues, the students, and all Muslims to fear God inwardly and outwardly and to develop our worship based on sincerity and adherence to the Sunna of the Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, until Judgment Day.

His excellency thanked 'UKAZ for granting him this opportunity to speak about the Islamic University.

Brief Biographical Sketch of Dr. al-'Abbud

Dr. al-'Abbud completed his primary studies in 1372 AH [1952-53]. He studied at Dar al-Tawhid in Ta'if and obtained his matriculation diploma from the Saudi Academic Institute in venerable Mecca in 1381 AH [1961-62].

Dr. al-'Abbud graduated from the College of Islamic Law in venerable Mecca in 1385 AH [1965-66]. He obtained a master's degree in dogma and ideological

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schools from the branch of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in venerable Mecca in 1397 AH [1976-77]. He obtained his doctorate degree in dogma from the Islamic University in 1403 AH [1982-83].

He served as the director of the Teachers School and Institute in al-Midhnab from 1376 AH [1956-57] to 1380 AH [1970-71]. He then worked as a teacher at the Institute of the Venerable Mecca Sanctuary until 1393 AH [1992-93]. He returned to the Islamic University to hold positions there as a lecturer, assistant professor, and chairman in the Islamic Creed Department for eight years, and then as dean of the College of the Call and Principles of Religion.

Dr. al-'Abbud's most prominent studies treat the following subjects: the puritanical creed of Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-'Abd-al-Wahab and its influence on the Islamic world, the achievement of unification and its effect on the solidarity of Muslims, Islamic renewal in the resolution and will of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and the coherent programs of action of the Sunnis and the community (eight books).

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Returns Home From Barcelona Conference

JN2811210995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned home this evening after leading the Palestinian delegation to the Barcelona economic summit, which grouped the Mediterranean basin states and the EU member states.

The 27 states attending the Euro-Mediterranean conference endorsed the Barcelona Declaration for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Mediterranean.

The declaration, endorsed without any reservations during a closed session that lasted for 30 minutes, stipulates partnership among the 15 EU member states and 12 partners from the Mediterranean basin in the political, economic, and cultural fields.

Before leaving Spain, President 'Arafat met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the prime minister's office in Madrid. During their meeting, which lasted for almost one hour, they discussed latest developments in the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track, Spanish aid to the Palestinian people, bilateral ties, and the role Europe can play to support the national Authority especially since Spain is the current EU president.

Qaddumi's Presence in Barcelona Said Blocked by Israel

MM2911111095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Qaddumi Not Invited to Conference; Israel Accused of Blocking His Participation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Some informed Palestinian sources have said that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, did not participate in the Barcelona European-Mediterranean conference which opened yesterday because the PLO Political Department did not receive an official invitation to the conference.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an invitation to participate in the conference, which is to discuss the future of Mediterranean states' development and economy, should have been sent to Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) in his capacity as the president of the Palestinian Council for Development and Reconstruction (PCDR).

The sources pointed out that the invitation to participate in the conference, which was addressed only to the Palestinian Authority [PA], sets a precedent and has a serious meaning and implications. They said that this means that the Europeans now prefer to deal directly with the PA and no longer with the PLO as in the past, despite the fact that the Oslo agreement contains a clause saying that the PLO Political Department is in charge of external relations with the world's states on behalf of the PA.

Palestinian sources close to Qaddumi, who is currently in New York to attend World Solidarity Day with the Palestinian people, which falls tomorrow, said that there may have been some European-Israeli contacts with a view to not sending an invitation to the PLO and instead sending an invitation only to the PA, represented at the conference by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The sources say that despite the fact that an invitation was not sent to the Political Department to participate in the Barcelona conference, to be held at foreign ministers' level, President 'Arafat was able to include Faruq Qaddumi's name in the participating Palestinian delegation. The sources, however, did not rule out that the meetings that the Palestinian president will hold in Barcelona, especially with the Israelis, are one of the factors which precluded Qaddumi's participation with the Palestinian delegation at the Barcelona conference, in addition to the growing unease among the Europeans caused by Abu-al-Lutf's positions and statements opposing the peace process and the agreements concluded.

The head of the PLO Political Department had previously made a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT

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in which he said that he will not participate in the Barcelona conference and that he prefers to participate in the UN ceremonies for Solidarity Day with the Palestinian people.

Israeli Forces' Killing of Palestinian Denounced

JN2811155395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Information Ministry has denounced the shooting by the Israeli occupation forces of 'Abd-al-Karim Musalimah from the village of Bayt 'Awwa, in Dayr Samit in the Hebron area this afternoon.

In a statement issued today, the Ministry said the liquidation of citizens by execution on the spot under the pretext of carrying out armed activities does not contribute to the peace process and does not make acceptable conditions for coexistence between the two peoples.

The Information Ministry urged the Israeli Government to stop killing and dissolve the Israeli special units, and to expedite the peace process and hand over all Palestinian areas to the National Authority to ensure the safety and security of citizens and preserve their lives and properties.

PLO's al-Hurani on Elections, Dialogue

MM2811105195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Nov 95 p 4

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Abdallah al-Hurani by Husayn Hijazi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hijazi] During the last two years you had reservations about attending the [PLO] Executive Committee meetings in Tunis, Cairo, and Gaza. Nevertheless, you participated in the recent meeting in Cairo. What happened?

[Al-Hurani] That is a good question. I found that boycotting the PLO's supreme institution would neither help this organization, nor lead to strengthening the position of those who oppose it. The boycott has led to weakening both sides. I found that this position was no longer practical. And despite the fact that, along with some Executive Council colleagues, I opposed the Oslo agreement, as other Palestinian forces did, this opposition, however, was unable to formulate an action plan to organize it; meanwhile the Oslo agreement was being put into practice, step by step, and was spawning a new political formation. The only option available was either to continue boycotting this budding political formation, or to initiate contacts with it. The answer that I reached was that such a rapprochement should be undertaken, because the boycott now means defaulting from political influence and effectiveness. Personally, I have not decided yet to be absent or far removed from political action.

[Hijazi] Do you mean on a personal level?

[Al-Hurani] Yes. I mean a personal absence from political life. I have not reached this decision. And neither have I opted for being away, especially at this time, when major political turning points are taking place concerning the fate of the Palestinians.

[Hijazi] Nevertheless, the tendency is not to put forward the candidacy of Executive Committee members at the elections. Do you believe that your political presence resides in entering the elections, for example?

[Al-Hurani] I am one of those who, at the last Executive Committee meeting, were opposed to putting any restrictions on the Executive Committee members' candidacy. There was an attempt to put this restriction on all [Palestine] National Council [PNC] members, but a solution was found, namely that these people could be proposed on the grounds that they are transferring their constituencies from abroad to inside the territories, where they would have the opportunity to put their candidacy forward. For the Executive Committee members, however, their nonparticipation was justified on two counts: First, the [Executive] Committee represents the ultimate point of reference for the [Palestinian] Authority [PA], and consequently, members should not risk having their image undermined or risk the PA itself disappearing, in the event that luck is not on the side of those members participating. The other reason is that the PLO is the mother institution, and the Executive Council members, as elected PNC members representing the Palestinian people as a whole, are not allowed to enter elections for the membership of a legislative council which is part of the PNC.

I differ, however, with this view, for the following reasons: First, the Executive Committee members are basically PNC members. What applies to PNC members must also apply to them. Second, if the Executive Committee chairman puts his candidacy forward, even if the matter concerns the presidency of the Council and not its membership, the same restrictions should apply, and therefore, I do not see how there can be a double standard. Third, our membership in the PNC was arrived at by selection and appointment, rather than by elections. And this is an opportunity to present ourselves to the Palestinian people, so that they give their opinion of their leaders, even if the matter concerns PA members. And as such (they must present themselves) [as published], especially since many long

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years have passed for the membership of this leadership, that is to say the Executive Committee members, and the time has come for them to put themselves forward so that the people can have their say about them. That is why I would rather not have any clause, either to compel or prevent, but instead would prefer that the members be left to decide whether they want to enter the elections or not, bearing in mind that I cannot be absolutely certain whether the motives of those who call for restrictions are only the reasons they put forward, or if there are also other considerations.

[Hijazi] Are you saying that you would prefer to enter the elections, if there were not these restrictions?

[Al-Hurani] I have not taken a decision yet, although the wish is there, especially since we are about to start a new political life, and whoever is not with it from the start, may perhaps not be able to find room in it for many years to come. There are, however, some factors that must be considered before taking this decision not only with regard to the reservations inherent in the decision, but also with regard to exploring the electoral base and studying the alliances....

[Hijazi] How can we relate your remarks to the current electoral preparations, in addition to the reservation about the noncandidacy of Executive Committee members?

[Al-Hurani] From the legal point of view, I believe that political forces and figures should certainly have been given a bigger role in formulating the electoral law. Also, sufficient opportunity should have been given to discuss it. But what happened was that the law was formulated by professionals and when it was proposed, the political forces were not given enough time to discuss it. Also, the observations made by the political forces were unfortunately not taken into consideration. And the law remained in its broad lines, just like when it was formulated. For example, there were some observations concerning constituencies, lists, and ratios, and concerning reserving a specific number of seats for the Christian brothers, whereas instead, none of the opinions of the political forces were taken into consideration with regard to either of these points.

With regard to the political and social side surrounding the electoral operation, my view was and still is that the PLO experiment should be taken into consideration, since the newborn baby is the PLO's. By that, I mean the unique PLO experiment in implementing political pluralism in the electoral operation. The PLO has succeeded in gathering all the political tendencies within a single framework, and it is an experiment which reflects, one way or another, a democratic reality. Let me tell you that one of the factors that have preserved the PLO's unity and its cohesion despite the international and Arab storms is the fact that the PLO has preserved this specific formula of pluralism. Now we must be more keen to preserve this national unity based on pluralism. I believe that this task can only be undertaken by brother Abu-'Ammar (President Yasir 'Arafat), who, as the president of all Palestinians and not only of Fatah, must hold a dialogue with everybody. If Abu-'Ammar and the PA are keen to start the dialogue with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) — and this is a positive step which we support — it is also important to be keen on an internal dialogue with the tendencies represented in the PLO, in view of the fact that Abu-'Ammar is ultimately responsible in the eyes of history and the struggle, and because he is the president of the PLO and the state, seeking to achieve the Palestinian people's unity. It was in fact decided at the recent Executive Committee meeting in Cairo to form a committee for this dialogue to be headed by Abu-'Ammar. I see that it is necessary to activate it in order to achieve the goal that we all want, namely national unity.

Hamas Leader al-Zahhar on Upcoming Elections

BR2811105495 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 26 Nov 95 p 7

[Report on interview with Mahmud al-Zahhar, head of Hamas' information department, by Peter Beck in Gaza; date not given: "The Hamas Leader Who Has Learned His Lesson"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Mahmud al-Zahhar, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] information department and the number two in the party hierarchy in Gaza, maintained that even the three and a half months he spent in a wretched PLO jail in no way softened or altered his views.

Al-Zahhar is well aware that Hamas is in a tight corner: The PLO, or the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), has turned on the pressure. As recently as last month, all of Hamas' leaders were languishing in jail, without the people in Gaza streaming out onto the streets to protest about it, as Hamas had predicted they would.

"It is true that I was indeed jailed for three and a half months, but neither I nor any other Hamas leader made any concessions or signed any kind of agreement whatsoever with the PLO," Mahmud al-Zahhar told AFTENPOSTEN, knowing full well that Hamas support has dwindled from 20 percent to 11 percent in the light of the latest wave of suicide bomb attacks.

"Hamas will set up a new party that will serve as our political front. The party will reflect the wishes and needs of Muslims," al-Zahhar continued. "We also

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intend to launch a new newspaper. We have asked our people to register for the election in January, but are not yet sure whether we will end up participating in it."

Al-Zahhar stressed that Hamas has always placed the emphasis on the social sides of Palestinians' lives. The organization has set up networks of kindergartens, hospitals, children's clinics, and schools. But the Hamas leaders also know that any attack on this network would be capable of inflicting a serious blow on them.

Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority could either now or at some later stage be tempted to "take over" Hamas' social institutions and break the back of the Islamic organization which is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood and was set up to carry out the intifadah against the Israelis.

Unjust Electoral Law

"There is no democracy here yet. The PLO has set up a system in the 16 constituencies in Gaza and the West Bank where 'the winner takes all.' We demanded that there be just two wards. Under such a system our strength would become considerably more apparent," al-Zahhar claimed.

"When the Israelis were in charge here, from time to time they would close the Islamic university, stop money flowing out of here abroad, and jail our supporters. But it did not help them: Our work and our struggle continued. What does the PLO believe it can do? Close the mosques? Our people are everywhere. Just take a walk down into Gaza. We have just started building a combined mosque and community center covering an area of 6,000 square meters," Mahmud al-Zahhar said, leaning back contentedly. However, he did not want to go out on the street to be photographed.

"Just look at Jordan and Egypt: the Muslim Brotherhood has full control," he assured AFTENPOSTEN, still unaware that the Egyptian authorities had just thrown the Brotherhood's leadership into jail.

But even if Hamas launched a political party "to change people's attitudes and boost our influence," it is by no means certain whether the party will stand in the elections which are scheduled for 20 January 1996.

"The people are divided into three camps," al-Zahhar maintained: "Those who support Hamas and will never forsake us; those who support the PLO, but are already bickering about their respective positions; and finally the vast majority who want to improve their living conditions, but who have so far not benefited in any way at all from the so-called peace process." "How long will this majority remain in such a situation? I have received many letters and messages in which the current regime in Gaza was condemned in the strongest possible terms."

"We are here and will stay here for as long as the Zionists occupy as much as even a single corner of our land — and who has even thought of asking the PLO whether they agree or not?" al-Zahhar asked rhetorically, with a smile.

Not in Mourning

"Does Hamas regret the killing of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the impact it might have on the peace process?" AFTENPOSTEN asked al-Zahhar.

"Why in the world should we or the Palestinians mourn for Rabin? He was responsible for some of the worst suffering inflicted on our people. He was the celebrated soldier who conquered our country in 1948, 1967, and 1973. He was responsible for the killing of thousands of Palestinians, for breaking their legs (during the intifadah), and for deporting Hamas supporters — including myself — to Lebanon."

Al-Zahhar believed that new Israeli Prime Minister Peres will have problems controlling the leaders of the Israeli Armed Forces. "But Peres will find it substantially easier to make peace with Syria," the Hamas spokesman predicted.

In response to our question as to whether he could envision visiting Norway, the "birthplace of the Oslo agreement," he first smiled almost contemptuously, then suddenly gesticulated wildly: "Invite me! Send me an invitation, and I will gladly come. After all, I am a doctor, and there are a great many hospitals and medical institutions in Norway that I can visit!"

Officers Arrive in Qalqilyah for City Takeover

JN2811175895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fifteen Palestinian officers have arrived in the city of Qalqilyah with their vehicles, weapons and in military uniform, to coordinate the takeover of the city by the National Authority on 18 December.

Brigadier General Ziyad al-'Atrash, the official in charge of the Palestinian Military Liaison Committee, said the occupation forces' withdrawal from Tulkarm will be completed on 10 December, the date set for the entry of the national forces into Ramallah. The National Authority will take over the city fully on 26 December.

Al-'Atrash added that the National Authority will take over Nabulus, and the entry of the National Security

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Forces and Police will be completed in the city and surrounding villages and areas on 13 and 14 December. He said the Palestinian forces will begin entering Bethlehem on 3 December and their entry will be completed on 18 December.

Military Official: No Israeli Barricades

JN2811210595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant Colonel Qays al-Makhzun, Palestinian military liaison officer in Tulkarm, has said that Israeli barricades will not be set up between Palestinian cities after the redeployment of occupation forces in accordance with what is stipulated in the Taba agreement. He added that the cement blocks recently set up by the occupation army at the entrances of Tulkarm are not military barricades. He explained that these blocks demarcate Area A, in which administrative and security powers are for the National Authority. He said that Area B starts beyond these blocks in which security powers are for Israel and administrative powers for the Palestinians.

In another development, an agreement was initialed in Tulkarm this morning to hand over the property tax offices. This falls within the process of transferring civil powers to the National Authority. Sami al-Ramlawi, director general of the Ministry of Finance, attended.

Jewish Extremists, Iran Said Planning Assassinations

TA2911082095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian Authority [PA] secretary general, says that the PA has information that Jewish extremists on one hand and Iranian elements on the other are planning to assassinate Palestinian public figures. He said that the Palestinians relayed this information to Israel even before Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was assassinated, but nobody in Israel wanted to believe it. His remarks were reported by Yoni Ben-Menahem.

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Algeria

General Boutighane Assassinated in Algiers Suburb

Attack Not Yet Claimed

BR2811142095 Paris AFP in French 1311 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, 28 Nov (AFP) — According to a reliable Algerian source in Paris, General Mohamed Boutighane, director of the Algerian Army's Coast Guard, was killed near his home on the military complex of Hydra, a residential suburb of Algiers, by a group of armed men on Monday evening [27 November].

According to the same source, the attack against General Boutighane, who was shot dead, occurred in an extremely well-guarded area where several Western embassies and residences of high-level state and Army dignitaries are located.

It is the first time that an Algerian general has been killed since clashes between the authorities and Islamists erupted almost four years ago. [passage omitted]

The attack against General Boutighane has not yet been claimed. [passage omitted]

General Boutighane was born in 1936 and received his military training in the former USSR. He was also a military attache in Rome.

Defense Ministry Confirms Assassination

LD2811162895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of National Defense issued a statement today in which it reported that at 1800 GMT on 27 November, Brigadier General Mohamed Boutigane was subjected to a cowardly criminal attack carried out by criminals disloyal to the nation when he was preparing to buy goods from the highly populated quarter of Bir Mandreis, the place which he used to go to.

The victim passed away few minutes after being transferred to Ain Naadja Hospital suffering from his wounds.

May God have mercy on the deceased, and give his family patience and solace. We belong to God, and to Him we return.

Sifi Chairs Meeting on Amnesty for 'Terrorists'

LD2811222595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Communique from the prime minister's office; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today chaired an inter-ministerial meeting which was extended to include all the services concerned to discuss the implementation of the measures of clemency and amnesty for the repentant among those implicated in terrorist acts. The appeal for clemency was made by President Zeroual in his address to the nation which he delivered on the occasion of his official installation and swearing in ceremony.

This meeting was attended by the ministers of the interior, justice, and communications; the commander in chief of the National Gendarmerie; an official from the National Defense Ministry; the secretary general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the director general of National Security [police]; and the director generals of the television and radio [networks] and the Algerian News Agency.

The meeting assessed the ordinance of 25 February 1995 pertaining to the measures of amnesty for those implicated in terrorist cases or [guilty of] supporting terrorists. The measures taken in favor of the repentant were also examined in all their legal, procedural, practical, and media [as heard] aspects. Real and tangible measures were discussed and approved during this meeting. These measures are aimed at achieving a greater efficiency in the objectives expected of the wide implementation of the legal measures relating to clemency, amnesty, and the repentance of the young people who have gone astray.

This is in line with the formal appeal made by the president before the people and to the highest authorities of the state in the address he delivered to the nation on 27 November. In that appeal the president called on the young people who have gone astray and who have been deceived to return to reason and to keep away from the road of depravity, crime, and sedition.

The set of measures which tackle the objectives of clemency, amnesty, and repentance was approved at the meeting. It has been decided to launch a targeted media campaign by writing and broadcasting appropriate messages which will be relayed by the radio, television, the print press and also local media and local radio stations. Provincial governors in particular will be asked to organize specific media activities in all the local communities aimed as much as possible at the people concerned by the measures of amnesty, clemency, and repentance.

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The inter-ministerial meeting also defined the measures linked to the role of mosques in explaining the amnesty measures to the repentant and the appeals to reason which will be made. After the statements made by the president in his speech, the meeting discussed the ways and means aimed at organizing the participation of our scholars, cheikhs [religious title], intellectuals, the media, the civilian society associations, and Algerian men and women in the promotion and implementation of a real national program in the context of the measures of clemency in accordance with the noblest values of the Algerian people and Islam's high principles.

Authorities Close Security Center, Release Detainees

LD2911104095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities, Environment and Administrative Reform issued a statement today in which it disclosed that the interior ministry has signed a decision stipulating the closure of the security center in In Amguel, Tamanrasset Province. According to this decision, all the persons detained at the center have been released.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed Before Elections

NC2811201595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has stressed that nobody can cancel the 50 percent of parliamentary seats granted to farmers and laborers at the People's Assembly because farmers and laborers make up a great majority of the Egyptian people. He said that the issue of amending the Constitution is raised whenever there are parliamentary elections, however, he said, there is a lot of development and reform needed including priorities such as the infrastructure and upgrading of living standards.

President Mubarak stressed in statements to the Hadith al-Madinah [the City's Talk] program to be broadcast on television this evening that he is not involved in the electoral campaigns. Noting that he favors no one over another. Although he is the chairman of the National Democratic Party, he stressed that this is commonplace. He said, all over the world, presidents chair the ruling party during elections.

The president emphasized that the emergency laws are a national necessity because they protect the people from terrorism and against those who tamper with their daily needs. He stressed that he is deliberate in assuring democracy and freedom of the press. Evidence of this is how he did not prevent anybody from running in the elections.

Asked about prospects for change following the People's Assembly elections, President Mubarak said: Change means changing the government. This happens in one case only: after electing a president. He added that frequent government changes do not help maintain stability.

The president pointed out that trying civilians before military courts is being done within the framework of the law. He stated that he only resorts to military courts under pressing circumstances, such as when common courts are stacked with cases. He said, not giving such defendants a trial endangers the people. He added that their referral to military courts guarantees a speedy decision. He pointed out in this context that military courts do not apply military laws, but apply the criminal code applied in common courts.

President Mubarak affirmed in his statements to Hadith al-Madinah that he always supports the freedom of the responsible press, which monitors the executive authority. He noted in this context that he impounded no book or newspaper.

Touching on the economy, the president affirmed that prices will not be raised before or after the elections.

Commenting on women's participation in the People's Assembly, President Mubarak hoped the ratio of women representation in the parliament would reach 50 percent. He remarked, however, that each country has its own nature and traditions.

Touching on the issue of national debt, President Mubarak said that the entire world has debts. Solvency is what counts, he said, noting that Egypt's debts have not increased since 1971.

Commenting on the phenomenon of terrorism, the president affirmed that it receded considerably as a result of the enormous security efforts to fight terrorism.

President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's fixed position on the issue of Jerusalem, noting that his recent visit to Israel was to offer condolences over the death of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Reacting to remarks by some that the peace march is treason, Mubarak asked: Is development treason? We have gained back all of our lands. Peace is a necessity to provide a good life for the citizens.

The president added that under no circumstance does he accept domestic or foreign pressures to change his viewpoint.

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President Mubarak reiterated that he is always careful to establish good relations with all heads of state. He added that he is trying to serve the interests of the middle class, as well as all the other classes of the society.

Candidates Reportedly Harassed During Election Campaign

NC2811165895 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 28 (AFP) — Egypt's parliamentary elections on Wednesday [29 November] are taking place in an atmosphere of human rights violations including the harassment of opposition candidates, a US-based rights group charged.

"Human Rights Watch (HRW) is deeply troubled by the climate in which the parliamentary elections will take place on November 29," the group said on Tuesday in an open letter to President Husni Mubarak.

"Lawyers and candidates expressed profound concern last week to our representatives about recent government practices undermining human rights and eroding rule of law," said the letter, a copy of which was received by AFP. HRW said it feared that "the election will not take place on a level playing field."

"There are police in uniform with walkie-talkies behind me all the time," one opposition candidate told the group.

"Candidates from the ruling party take as many supporters with them as they like on campaign tours but if I take more than four with me they call it a demonstration which is banned under emergency law," he said.

"One night I walked with an aide into a narrow alley where police patrols could not enter. As we passed out leaflets to passers-by the two policemen behind us confiscated the material from their hands," another said.

"Police have asked shopkeepers to inform them if they see a large group with us," a candidate in the northern city of Alexandria said. "My opponent from the (ruling) National Democratic Party has large public meetings daily in the streets with loudspeakers. All I can do at night is go into shops and talk to about 10 people at a time and answer questions."

HRW said two candidates in Alexandria were arrested on November 3 "when they walked into a small coffee shop and began introducing themselves and shaking hands with patrons inside."

"Supporters of Moslem Brotherhood candidates have been harassed and some have been detained for putting up campaign posters," the group said. The Brotherhood has said 600 of its campaign supporters have been arrested in the days leading up the vote.

The HRW condemned the sentencing last Thursday of 54 Brotherhood figures to up to five years in prison as "a blatant move to disenfranchise key members of the country's largest political opposition movement." It urged Mubarak not to ratify the military court's sentence.

Independent Candidate Wounded in Election Violence

NC2911112195 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (AFP) — An independent candidate and a polling station director were wounded in two separate shootings during voting in Egyptian parliamentary elections on Wednesday [29 November], police said.

Unidentified gunmen shot candidate Muhammad Isma'il in Al-Wasitah, 95 kilometres (50 miles) south of Cairo, before fleeing. He was taken to hospital.

Meanwhile, a campaign worker who was refused entry to a polling station shot and seriously wounded its director in the Nile Delta village of Ikhnaway al-Zallaqah.

Safwat Zeidan, a canvasser for independent candidate Muhammad 'Izz tried to enter the polling station with several supporters but officials kept him out.

He opened fire with his pistol, hitting Sha'ban Raslan al-Sayyid with several bullets, before running off. Police found his gun and were searching for him.

MB Charges Arrests Aimed at Rigging Election

NC2811150795 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Report by Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 28 (AFP) — The fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood [MB], a day before parliamentary elections, accused the Egyptian government on Tuesday [28 November] of arresting hundreds of its supporters in an effort to rig the vote.

Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AFP that police were conducting "mass arrests against our delegates who were to have observed the election count."

The arrests "prove that the government wants to cheat in the elections," al-Hudaybi said.

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He said 600 Brotherhood delegates had been detained in various regions across Egypt while others had fled their homes to escape police.

"It seems the government decided to cheat against our candidates because it knows that we constitute the main political opposition force," said al-Hudaybi who is himself running in the vote.

The Brotherhood and its ally, the Labor party, have a total of 244 candidates in the race, according to a latest count.

Adding candidates from the Liberal party, with which the two groups are cooperating, there are some 307 members of the Islamic trend running for the 444 seats in parliament.

"We represent for the government a real danger because if we have 150 delegates (in parliament), they will have to take care. But if we're only 10, that won't bother them much," al-Hudaybi said.

But al-Hudaybi refused to speculate on the outcome of Wednesday's elections, saying: "I can't predict anything because that depends on the extent of the fraud.

"If none of our candidates is elected that would mean the fraud was 100 percent."

Al-Hudaybi spoke in his election headquarters, now the Brotherhood's main headquarters after a military court ordered their former offices in Cairo closed down last Thursday.

At his home and office, the phones went intermittently out of order on Tuesday. Al-Hudaybi noted ironically: "I don't understand what's going on. In the 1987 elections, all our phones were cut the entire day."

To cope with the problem, all Brotherhood election officials now have pagers and mobile car phones.

This year's vote is the first time that the Moslem Brotherhood has entered the elections since 1987, after most major opposition groups boycotted the 1990 poll.

"Despite the ridiculous and violent measures, our candidates are still capable of facing their competitors. What bothers us is the government's position," he said.

Last Thursday, the military court also sentenced 54 Brotherhood members to up to five years in prison, the climax of a year-long police crackdown on the group.

In an interview with the government daily AL-AHRAM on Tuesday, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi accused the group of being behind the November 20 bombing of Egypt's embassy in Pakistan that killed 17 people.

The ruling party of President Husni Mubarak has aimed to turn public anger at the bombing against the Brotherhood, which the head of state has accused of supporting Islamic militant violence in Egypt.

Since the attack, banners have multiplied in Cairo, reading "The Moslem Brotherhood and terrorism are two faces of the same coin," "No to the assassins of our sons in Pakistan," and "Yes to Islam, no to the illegal Brotherhood."

"It is unheard of to accuse us of implication in the Islamabad attack. They want to soil our image but the people no longer believe these accusations," al-Hudaybi said.

Although the Brotherhood was banned in 1954, the state has tolerated it since the mid-1970s in a truce which lasted until the crackdown began in January 1995.

Poll: 33% Support NDP, 10% Support Islamists

NC2811173695 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Nov 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an opinion poll, the first of its kind, one week before the People's Assembly elections to be held on Wednesday [29 November], the National Democratic Party [NDP] was first among voters, receiving the support of 33 percent of the sample polled. Independent candidates were second with 15 percent, the Wafd Party candidates received 14 percent, the Islamic current 10 percent, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping and the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party received 5 percent each, and the Liberal Party was last with 3 percent.

In the poll, conducted by the Research and Information Center of the Dar al-Tahrir Publishing House under the supervision of Center Chief Dr. Fathi 'Abd-al-Fattah, 66 percent of those polled affirmed that going to the polls to choose their representatives in the new People's Assembly is the citizens' duty.

The poll surveyed 800 male and female citizens representing various social, professional, and age groups from the governorates of Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Qalyubiyah, al-Sharqiyah, al-Daqahliyah, Alexandria, Asyut, and Damietta. [passage omitted]

Polling Station Chief Shot in North

NC2911102295 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (AFP) — A campaign worker shot and seriously wounded the director of a polling station in Egypt's elections on Wednesday after he was refused access, police said.

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They said Safwat Zaydan opened fire with his pistol, hitting Sha'ban Raslan al-Sayyid with several bullets, in the Nile Delta village of Ikhnaway al-Zallaqah.

The shooting occurred as Zaydan, a campaign worker for independent candidate Muhammad 'Izz, tried to enter the polling station with several supporters but polling station officials kept him out.

Police found the gun although the assailant escaped, while al-Sayyid was taken to hospital.

One Killed, 3 Injured in Shoot-Out During Election

NC2911122395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1100 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA) — A citizen was killed and three others were injured today in a gun battle involving rivals in today's parliamentary elections in Markaz Juhaynah, Suhaj Governorate in southern Egypt.

Security sources stated that the brawl started at 0700 today between supporters of candidate Kamal Abu-'Aqil (National Democratic Party) and his cousin Jamal Salamah Abu-'Aqil (independent). Several types of weapons were used. Citizen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawad, a supporter of Jamal Abu-'Aqil, and three others were injured.

Police Arrest 36 Targeting 'Senior' Political Figures

NC2811173195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Nov 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Intelligence Department at dawn yesterday arrested 36 persons, believed to be leading members of the al-Jihad Group, before they were about to carry out several suicide operations against strategic and vital installations, some political leaders, ministers, and their sons.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the suicide groups had monitored the route used by a senior political figure, his son, and other important personalities. A responsible security source has disclosed that the suicide groups targeted some senior political leaders in Egypt and, for the first time, their sons; some ministers, including the interior, defense, and information ministers; and leading security figures, including State Security Intelligence leaders and important figures.

The source stressed that the detainees had bought a white Renault, which was modified to fit it with explosives so that it could be easily used in carrying out the first suicide operation.

During a security campaign, 150 kg of grated [as published] TNT were found in sacks, in addition to five explosive devices, a large number of tools used to make devices, and some weapons.

The State Security Prosecution Department has started questioning the detainees while security agencies continue their search for four others. They are 'Adil al-Sayyid Bayyumi, Muhammad al-Sayyid, Sha'ban al-Dib, and Nabil 'Abd-al-Rahman Rizq.

Mubarak Urged Not To Ratify MB Verdicts

NC2811171995 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Nov 95 p 1

[Editorial: "We Call on the President of the Republic to Suspend His Ratification of the Military Verdicts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Publicizing the verdicts in the two cases involving the Muslim Brothers [MB] only a few days before the parliamentary elections reflects bad timing that should have been avoided. The announcement should have been postponed until after then to avoid confirming the view that these lawsuits were designed to influence the results of the elections in favor of the ruling party, either in terms of nomination or influencing the voters as they cast their votes.

The postponement would have legal and constitutional justification because the State Council's Administrative Court entitled the defendants to contest the constitutionality of the presidential decree that referred their case to the Supreme Military Court. Article Seven of Military Law No 25/1966, which gives the president this power under a state of emergency, is considered null without being specifically stated in black and white because it violates Article 68 of the Constitution that was issued and took effect on 11 September 1972. The article specifies that a civilian citizen is entitled to be refered to a normal or civilian judge. According to legal norms, a subsequent clause amends or abrogates a previous clause if it handles the same subject with an amendment or annulment, so long as that subsequent clause is as strong as the previous one in terms of legal obligation. This is even more true when the amendment or annulment is due to a clause in a higher law, like the Constitution, which is called "the father of laws," that determines the clause's sphere, limits, and prerequisites (see Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad's study published in AL-SHA'B last Tuesday [21 November]).

The defense council contested the constitutionality of the referral to a higher military court in accordance with the administrative judiciary's ruling. The decision on that plea will be made by the Supreme Constitutional Court. Therefore, the announcement should have been deferred until the court rules on the matter, since its verdict could have a bearing on that of the Supreme

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Military Court. If the court rules that the referral decree was unconstitutional, then the military court's guilty verdict is overruled according to the last paragraph of Article 49 of the Supreme Constitutional Court law.

This ruling will also be binding on whoever ratifies the military verdict, be it the president of the Republic himself or whoever he delegates. This is stipulated as a constitutional commitment in Chapter 5 of the Constitution concerning the Supreme Constitutional Court and supplementary law No. 48/1979 concerning this court.

It should be noted that President Husni Mubarak has recently made statements to the press and the radio accusing the Muslim Brothers of violence and terrorism and of taking part in the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat. This makes him a nonneutral party unfit to ratify the sentences issued against the Muslim Brothers. Anyone he might delegate to deal with this matter will necessarily, and by force of obedience to the higher military ranks, be nonneutral and thus unfit to ratify, suspend, or annul the sentences according to the powers invested in him by law.

Accordingly, we appeal to the president of the Republic to defer ratification of the guilty verdicts in the Muslim Brothers' cases until the Supreme Constitutional Court makes a ruling on the plea lodged with it contesting the constitutionality of the referral decree. He should do so out of respect for the Constitution, legitimacy, and the supremacy of the law, which the Constitution states is the basis of the state's legal process. The final word on all this belongs to the Almighty.

[Signed] AL-SHA'B

AL-SHA'B Publishes Statement on Embassy Bombing

NC2811165195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Nov 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] The al-Jihad Group has issued a statement, which we received by fax, on the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. The statement noted that the operation had been carried out to spite the Pakistani Government and Foreign Ministry which, as a result of U.S. pressure, have been tracking down and handing over the Arab mujahidin to their governments. The mujahidin are subject to torture, repression, and brutality without specific charges.

The statement added: The operation sends a clear message to the secular government of Pakistan, which took India's side in the issue of Kashmir, noting that its war against Islam will reward it nothing but loss. The statement described the details of the storming and bombing of the embassy. It said: Two members of the group, 22 and 25 years old, drove a double-cabin pickup truck along Sahrordi [name as published] street. At the French Embassy, the truck swerved to the left and stopped. One of the two got out of the truck and walked 150 meters toward the embassy gate. He threw his body against the gate to open it, and his body was blown to pieces. The other drove his booby-trapped truck into the embassy building and destroyed it.

Mubarak Views Syrian, Israeli Hope for Peace

NC2911104095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has a definite wish to reach a lasting and just peace with Israel.

In an interview with the newspaper MAYU, mouthpiece of the ruling National Democratic Party, today the president said that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is a flexible man who really hopes to succeed in his mission to make peace with Syria.

President Mubarak added: As long as the two parties have a wish to make peace, I believe that they will succeed in surmounting all obstacles that bar their progress.

He said he expects that Peres will finalize a permanent settlement of the Palestinian issue. He added that he hopes that the Palestinians and Israelis will reach an agreement over the still unresolved issues between them and that the existing agreements will be faithfully implemented.

President Mubarak noted that he will meet with Shim'on Peres in Egypt next week.

He remarked: I feel optimistic about his premiership. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the suggestion made by some people that foreign personalities or organizations should supervise the Egyptian elections, Mubarak told MAYU: This suggestion is totally unacceptable. We have a Constitution and a judiciary that is known internationally for its impartiality and independence. We are a state of institutions with a clear separation of the executive, legislative, and judicial powers. Our history proves that we are a nation which respects these powers and the roles they play for the good of the citizens.

He added: No one can dictate his views to us. We are not anybody's ward, and we will not accept any supervisory committees, particularly if they are backed by foreign parties. We accept no guardianship and

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must concertedly defend our country's dignity. [passage omitted]

Musa Returns From Barcelona Conference

NC2911065595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo last night after participating in the Barcelona conference, which was attended by 27 European and Mediterranean states. In his speech to the conference, Musa expressed Egypt's readiness to support European-Mediterranean partnership and strengthen relations on the basis of legitimacy and mutual respect.

The foreign minister praised the results of the European and Mediterranean foreign ministers meeting in Barcelona. He said the discussions dealt with every aspect of cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean in all areas.

The Barcelona conference for cooperation between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries ended its meetings yesterday evening. Participants stressed their support for achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, one based on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the exchange of land for peace. The final statement also called for turning the Mediterranean into a region of dialogue, exchange, and cooperation to ensure peace and stability and to entrench democracy.

Al-Alfi: Muslim Militant Headquarters in Britain

NC2811155395 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 27 (AFP) — Egypt stepped up its criticisms of Britain on Tuesday [28 November] as Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said in an interview that London was home to the headquarters of Egyptian Moslem extremists.

"The information center of Egyptian terrorists is located in Britain," al-Alfi told the government daily AL-AHRAM.

"These terrorists are active on British soil where they hold meetings and give orders for missions. They are continually moving in and out of London and all the attacks have been planned from outside" Egypt, al-Alfi said.

He repeated a warning to countries harboring fugitive militants, saying: "These countries will be burned by the fire of terrorism, just as some of them already have been." He called on the world community to "address decisively these murderous mercenaries who threaten mankind.

"I do not believe the world community can accept considering a murderer as a political refugee," al-Alfi said, referring to the political asylum Egypt says some militants enjoy in Europe.

Egypt has stepped up calls for international cooperation against terrorism since the November 19 bombing of its embassy in Pakistan, which left 17 dead and more than 60 injured.

Al-Alfi pointed a finger at Britain for the first time on Thursday, accusing it of harboring two of the seven top leaders of the armed Jihad group and giving political asylum to one of them.

On Monday AL-AHRAM said Britain had become the "land of asylum" for militants, listing six reported to be residing there.

"Egyptian officials have held meetings with their counterparts in various countries and we gave them the information we have," al-Alfi said of efforts to obtain militants Britain and Switzerland.

The minister also lashed out at the Moslem Brotherhood, accusing them of implication in the Pakistan bombing.

"They claim to be innocent. But in reality it's quite the opposite and their actions prove it. Does Islam permit, for example, the crime in Pakistan?" he said.

"According to the information we have, the Brotherhood is behind all the terrorist movements in Egypt and in several Arab countries," al-Alfi said.

He pointed to the ongoing military trial of Brotherhood members accused of setting up a liaison office to communicate between Jihad members in Egypt and their leaders in London.

The Moslem Brotherhood, which is participating in legislative elections on Wednesday, denounced the Islamabad bombing.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Denounces Mauritania's Ties to Israel

NC2811215395 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Proceeding from his revolutionary and historic role in confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation and exposing the conspiracies that seek to tear up the Arab homeland; and as part of his meetings with youths to arouse the effective strength of the Arab community to assume future responsibilities and

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face up to the impending danger threatening to perish our nation, the brother leader of the revolution has met with Tripoli youths.

The brother leader spoke during the meeting about the serious dimensions of the suspicious Barcelona conference, which seeks to tear up the Arab nation and is designed to dictate the will of the strong European party on the weak Arab party. He stated that one of the disastrous results of this international conspiracy is Mauritania's recognition of the Israeli enemy.

The brother leader of the revolution said: To prove what we stated earlier that it is a conference of conspiracy against the Arab nation and that it primarily seeks to serve and empower the Israelis, the first result of this conference is Mauritania's recognition of so-called Israel, thus striking out the name of Palestine and the Palestinian people. Although Mauritania's action today is against Arab nationalism, against the interests of the Arab nation, and against its own interests, and although it has recognized something that is false and fabricated—that Palestine is Israel and that the Palestinian people are the Israeli people— Mauritania does not affect us much, as a matter of fact. However, during my visit to Mauritania in 1972—as [former] Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah and his Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Miknas [name as heard] will recall—I was to blame for this. I brought Mauritania into the Arab League. Up to the outbreak of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, Mauritania was not an Arab country. When I visited it, it was not an Arab country or a member of the Arab League. I was the first Arab official to visit Mauritania, and I persuaded them to join the Arab League. Libya has exerted efforts with the Arab League until it became a member. I am sorry for what I did, and I withdraw recognition of Mauritania as an Arab country.

Mauritanian Envoy Summoned Over Ties To Israel

NC2811222695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretariat of the General People's General Committee for Unity has summoned Mauritania's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and informed him of the Jamahiriyah's disturbance at and regret for the announcement made in Barcelona on a meeting held between the Mauritanian foreign minister and the foreign minister of the Israeli enemy and the signing of an agreement to establish ties between them, especially at this particular time. The Arab nation is now suffering from the enemies' conspiracies and schemes to destroy it and undermine the pillars of Arab order. Meanwhile, the Arab Palestinian people are subjected to the tragedies of occupation, displacement, seizure of land, and the selling of the cause in the markets of politics by defeatists. The Mauritanian step, which is unjustified, uncalled for, and hard to explain, runs contrary to the Arab and Islamic charters.

A source at the General People's Committee for Unity has stated the following:

It has been announced in Barcelona that Mauritania and the Israeli enemy have agreed to establish relations. This reveals the purpose of inviting some countries to the so-called Barcelona conference, forcing them to recognize the Israeli enemy, and taking advantage of their negative economic conditions to impose the Israeli-Western hegemony on a country such as Mauritania, a country overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, lies thousands of miles away from Palestine, and is not directly related to the Palestinian cause, except through its membership of the Arab League since 1973, at the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution. Because of its economic and political circumstances, Mauritania could not afford more than that [sentence as heard]. Today Mauritania is being forced to get involved in the issue of recognizing and dealing with the Israelis. This step constitutes a violation of the Arab and Maghreb charters and causes grave damage to the Arab Palestinian peoples's struggle to regain their rights in their homeland, which is usurped by the Israelis, who refuse any of their rights, least of them being the right of return, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and restoration of the sacred sites.

While expressing extreme sorrow for Mauritania's commencement on a new capitulationist step, the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity cautions that the sacrifices of the Arab nation and the blood of its martyrs will remain greater than all those who rush toward and give in to the enemy and those who carry out the orders of America and the Europeans. This reveals the truth and the goals of the suspicious regional conferences and the serious conspiracies being concocted against the Arabs and the Muslims.

The brother Mauritanians are urgently invited to back down and safeguard the heritage and values of the Arab Mauritanian people and their history of struggle.

Daily on 'Conspiracy' of Barcelona Conference

LD2811212995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1018 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 28 Nov — AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR issued here today stressed that the Libyan Jamahiriyah, without any one-upmanship, had been the first to define the dimensions of the Barcelona conference. The leader of great al-Fatih [1 September] revolution had dotted the 'i's before a big gathering

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of the world press representatives and warned frankly against the results of this conference and its economic and political ulterior motives.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR said in its editorial entitled "Barcelona: A Crack in the Arab Ranks":

"The Great Jamahiriyah cannot take part in the crime of wiping out the Arab nation from the list of concepts in use to see it replaced by the concept of Middle Easternism or the Mediterranean identity. Consequently, it unveils the absence of good intentions of the Europeans and Americans vis-a-vis the Arab region so that we get a confirmation of the size of the conspiracy that is being hatched against the Arab nation and Arab countries. This conspiracy consists in attempting to link these countries to American and European colonialism on political, economic, and even social levels.

"Yes, the simplest way of qualifying this conference is that attendance will be equal to a great treason by any official or non-official Arab who attends and takes part in wiping out the Arab identity and, therefore, mortgaging the Arab political and economic future.

"Incorporating the Arabs into the circles of Western hegemony, acceptance of the Western political form, and submission to the Western economical march are all actions that expose the criminal intent of those who have led the Arab politicians to Barcelona to force them into signing the humiliation of the [Arab] nation and completely write its future off.

"What law is this and what democracy is this that the West is advocating and trying to impose through this disaster of a conference."

The newspaper added that countries swarmed with millions of homeless and unemployed people, being blown away by the wind of inflation and which are subject to party and faction mood like traditional tools have proven their failure and falseness. "Countries that are still following such path can only be described as shameless countries trying to drag the countries of the world backward and force them into extending the years of suppression, repression, and deprivation through the retention of corrupt regimes and tools that cannot keep up with the times or achieve the aspirations of millions everywhere."

All there is "and all that the Barcelona conference files contain is in fact tailored to be fit to tear what is left of the Arab nation through widening the gaps and imposing certain patterns of political and economical life that do not conform with the Arab nature. Indeed they are patterns that are unfit even for the Western states and America which generalize these bad models."

The newspaper concluded its editorial by saying that the free of the Arab nation would be absolved from what the Arab officials put their handprints and footprints to [as received] and that the struggle was continuing to foil all these mean conspiracies that are targeting Arabs as an independent entity as well as the future of a nation: the Arab nation that is.

Opposition Accuses Regime of Role in UK Murder

MM2811170295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Nov 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Assassination of Libyan Dissident in London: Opposition Accuses Tripoli's Agents; Police Note: 'Not a Professional' Killing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Libyan opposition groups yesterday accused the Libyan Government of being behind the assassination of the Libyan dissident 'Ali Muhammad Abu-Zayd, 55, in London on Sunday. Libya announced yesterday that it is ready to cooperate in the investigation, and denied involvement in the affair. The British police said that they are keeping an open mind in dealing with the issue and with regard to the motives of the killing. The security organs have continued their investigation of the murder incident, which took place on Sunday morning in a store where the victim worked, situated in the Queensway area of the British capital. The police appealed yesterday for any possible witnesses to come forward with any useful information. They pointed out that they do not know whether anything was stolen from the shop, and announced that they are keeping an "open mind" in dealing with the issue.

Special Branch official Dick Bell said in the afternoon that he thinks it "unlikely" that a Libyan agent carried out the assassination "although I cannot rule out political involvement" (REUTER). He pointed to the way the assassination was carried out (stabbing), deducing that "it does not have the hallmarks of a professional killing."

Two opposition groups issued obituaries for Abu-Zayd. The opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] said that "the late martyr was one of the Libyans who, from an early stage, stood up to the rule of (Colonel Mu'ammar) al-Qadhdhafi...and as a result had to endure the regime's tyranny." It pointed out that he participated in establishing the NFSL in 1981 and was one of its leaders and added that "it can only wait for the result of the investigation being carried out by the British authorities, but that it would remind people that the martyr 'Ali Abu-Zayd had been subjected to persecution by (Libyan) Government organs. Also, it would remind people that it is those organs that issued the death sentence in absentia against him." It accused

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"agents" of the Libyan Government of "using British territory to carry out assassinations on Libyan citizens, especially in 1980."

It appealed to "the British authorities to intensify the protection and care of Libyan emigres residing on their territory...," and urged the Libyans "to be wary and cautious, and step up their security precautions."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, an NFSL leader accused the Libyan Government of being directly behind Abu-Zayd's assassination. He said that the Libyan Government's record is "full of assassinations," pointing out that the first meeting of the revolutionary committees in 1978 had decided to pursue "the enemies of the revolution" inside Libya and abroad.

The Libyan Movement for Change and Reform also issued an obituary of the deceased, pointing out that he is "a member of its constituent committee" (1992), that he had settled in Britain after fleeing from Libya, and that "he was a splendid example of generosity and sacrifice for the principle for which he left the homeland, namely the fight against injustice and tyranny and the struggle for freedom." It was not previously publicized that Abu- Zayd was an official in this organization, but it is known that he left the NFSL in 1989 and distanced himself from "party" activities while remaining with the opposition.

'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamisi, former Libyan ambassador and spokesman for the Coordination Committee of the Libyan National and Democratic Forces [CCLNDF], in a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, condemned Abu-Zayd's assassination. He said that the deceased "was an honorable militant known for his opposition to the regime and his adherence to his principles" and said: "We believe, without doubt, that the regime is behind his assassination which we condemn just as we condemn any assassination aimed at anyone." He added: "The opposition forces must objectively investigate the assassination in order to reach a conclusion about what should be done in the future." He pointed out that it may be that the regime has resorted to killing dissidents abroad as a result of "feeling isolated and at the end of the road."

Some opposition sources who refused to give their names have linked the Abu-Zayd assassination to the recent Banghazi incidents involving Islamic groups. They said that the deceased was known for his Islamist leanings and that he was a "coordinator" for the attack on Bab al-Aziziyah in Tripoli in the eighties (the leader of the unsuccessful operation was an "Islamist" officer in the Libyan Armed Forces). Libya, however, yesterday denied involvement in the incident. JANA quoted a source in the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation as saying that the Libyan interests section in England "had presented a request to the British Foreign Office with regard to the participation of the great Jamahiriyah's specialized organs with the English authorities in the investigation of the assassination of the Libyan Arab citizen 'Ali Muhammad Abu-Zayd."

Morocco

Filali on Expectations for Barcelona Conference

MM2811151095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Munsif al-Sulaymi: "Filali: Emigration and Extremism Are Result of Complications in the Development Process"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat — Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan premier and foreign minister, has said that the problems of emigration and extremism are the result of complications in the economic and social development process in the south Mediterranean states, stressing that the concerns of the Barcelona Mediterranean summit must focus on ways to develop the south Mediterranean states and that the dialogue between sides should be comprehensive. He also expressed his regret for the poor coordination between the Maghreb and Arab Mediterranean states participating in the conference.

Filali, who was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Rabat prior to his departure for Barcelona at the head of a Moroccan delegation of 16 officials in the fields of economy, finance, trade, investments, emigration, and security, said that Morocco will propose hosting the second European Mediterranean Conference to be held next year, stressing that the Moroccan monarch Hassan II was the first, back in 1993, to call for the holding of a Mediterranean cooperation and security conference, an invitation announced by Filali during a European ministerial conference held at the time in Rome; this, according to Filali, makes Morocco "most pleased that the Barcelona conference is to be held"; he said that the conference is "the beginning of a new, positive order in the Mediterranean region."

He stressed the importance of linking the tracks of regional cooperation initiated by the North African and Middle East states' summits in Casablanca and Amman and "the new order" currently being proposed by the EU to its partners in the south Mediterranean, in addition to the partnership agreements concluded by Morocco, Tunisia, and Israel, which are also being discussed by other states. He said: We are going to Barcelona and we shall see whether the Europeans, who extended the invitation to the Barcelona conference, will

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bring additional ideas and proposals to the partnership agreements, or whether they will confine themselves to these.

In response to a question on the relationship between economic and political security and stability and the sides and states concerned with security in the Mediterranean, Filali said that all Mediterranean states are concerned with security and that Morocco's view of security stems from its view of the region's stability and the conditions for it, foremost among them the economic issues and development problems, adding that the problems of emigration and extremism from which the Mediterranean states are suffering are the result of complications in economic and social development. He said that the issue of immigration would not exist if the possibilities and opportunities for economic and social development in the region were available, because the residents of the south Mediterranean do not really want to emigrate to countries and climates alien to their homeland and kin. He proposed thinking about initiating Mediterranean cooperation mechanisms between governments and private sectors on both sides of the Mediterranean, to minimize the difficulties faced by the southern Mediterranean states.

On the issue of cooperation between the Arab Maghreb states and the Arab states of the Mediterranean, Filali expressed "his regret for the failure of some Mediterranean states to participate, among them Libya" and expressed the hope that "all the states in the region can overcome their difficulties and will be able to participate in the cooperation tracks in the region, and that the dialogue should be comprehensive and the objectives shared between all the Mediterranean states." He added: "While the EU is acting on its proposal to hold the Barcelona conference, and its word is united and coordinated, the states of the south Mediterranean, regrettably, are not in a similar situation." Filali said that Rabat had, from the start, expressed the wish to hold a ministerial conference to coordinate efforts between the southern Mediterranean states, at least with regard to the basic issues on which agreement could be reached, but that unfortunately this has not happened, pointing to the difficulties and special circumstances faced by all the southern Mediterranean states, especially the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], which he said is not in a favorable situation, stressing, however, that whatever the circumstances and problems, the UMA must advance because it is a question of a historical mission and of destiny, in the shadow of the alliances surrounding the region's states and those expected to emerge in the future. It should be noted that the UMA is attending the Barcelona conference despite the fact that Libya has refrained form attending.

On whether the issue of Spanish-occupied Ceuta and Melilla will be addressed, Filali revealed for the first time that there is a European-Moroccan agreement, since Spain joined the EU in the early eighties, which includes a clear European statement to the effect that Ceuta and Melilla are not part of the EU. Spanish-Moroccan relations have seen a noticeable improvement in the last few weeks following the agreement on sea fishing, and it has been announced that a Spanish-Moroccan summit is to be held at the beginning of next year. [passage omitted]

Filali Speaks on Barcelona Conference Outcome

LD2811220395 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Morocco today after representing our country at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona. He held a series of meetings with the delegations of the participating countries and held a press conference. Our correspondents followed the prime minister's activities:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted]

[Filali] I do not think that there are any disagreements. On the contrary, there are....

[Correspondent, interrupting] ...some objections?

[Filali] I mean there are no objections. There are principles which were agreed upon and which everyone accepted. Therefore it is not enough now to agree on principles. The economic and social problems also require tangible measures in order to solve these problems. Therefore it has been agreed that meetings will be held gradually at the level of experts and senior officials from the European Community and the southern Mediterranean with a view to studying these problems.

[Correspondent] Abdellatif Filali, who held several meetings with the heads of the French, British, and Portuguese delegations to stress the importance of Morocco's role in the region and bilateral relations with these countries, said that Morocco supported a rapprochement among the Mediterranean states. He added that His Majesty King Hassan II had suggested in 1993 holding a meeting inspired by the same principles on which the Barcelona Conference was based.

[Filali] The situation prevailing in our region is an economic and social one. As I said in my speech yesterday we proposed in 1993 the same idea which the Europeans have now put forward with regard to this problem. Therefore, we believe that there is a priority

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[as heard] even if there is a political dialogue. However there is a close link between politics, economics, and social affairs. It is not possible to have a political dialogue without taking into account the economic and social situation of the southern Mediterranean countries.

[Correspondent] Abdellatif Filali also talked about the huge disparities in development and the serious imbalances among the Mediterranean states and described these two elements as permanent sources of concern. He said: Everyone wants this association but it is a meaningless association if it leads to deeper imbalances. Morocco also insisted on the need to break with the methods of the past, overcome the conventional formulas of cooperation which have shown their limitations, and the need to involve all the countries of the Mediterranean without exception so that cooperation can become real.

No satisfactory solutions were found for some issues such as the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons about which Egypt and Israel had totally divergent views. The Barcelona Conference Final Communique, and this is a positive point, included a reference to EU support for and understanding of the issue of foreign debt affecting the economies of the southern Mediterranean countries. [end recording]

Sudan

Government Expresses Support for Dayton Agreement

EA2911120395 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudan has declared its support for the Dayton agreement according to which the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia reached a peace accord for solving the Bosnian problem.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, affirmed at the ministry's regular forum on 28 November that Sudan followed with interest the efforts which had been made to find a peaceful solution to Bosnia. He pointed out that the solution is likely to preserve the Muslims' identity and their right to have an independent and sovereign state in Europe.

His Excellency pointed out that the accord, as the Bosnian leadership said, is satisfactory. His Excellency called on all states to support this accord.

Government Claims Egypt Behind Ugandan Attack

EA2811182595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, has said that more than one state is involved in the latest Ugandan attack on Sudan, and that these states are led by the Egyptian regime. Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today, he said the attack has been repulsed, while the Armed Forces are continuing to score victories in the theater of operations.

Dr. Ghazi said the Ugandan regime has stepped up its activities with a view to coordinating with the Egyptian regime. He drew attention in this respect to the visit by the head of the Ugandan regime and his defense minister to Egypt while the recent attack was under way, and their meeting with the head of the Egyptian regime. He said participants in the meeting discussed Sudan, and the stepping up of coordinated action against it. His Excellency said that the head of the Ugandan regime intends to make another visit to Cairo for the same purpose.

Dr. Ghazi said that two weeks ago, the Armed Forces destroyed a small vehicle near Magwe, killing all its passengers who were participating in the Ugandan [word indistinct] aggression. The passengers included an Ethiopian, an Eritrean, and a third, who was not carrying identification documents, but who was nonetheless identified as originating from one of the western states. He said that the Egyptian Air Force transported tanks and military equipment directly from Eritrea to the assembly areas for the operations in Uganda, and from there to the theater of operations in the south of Sudan.

He said: We wish to make it clear to the whole world the extent of the close coordination between the Egyptian and Ugandan regimes against Sudan, stressing that the Egyptian regime will not be able to strike a blow against Sudan, because the Egyptian people would reject such a move, as would the people of the region, since the Egyptian regime is applying a defeatist policy. [sentence as heard]

He said Sudan has received a second invitation from the Malawian president to attend a meeting of technical groups between Sudan and Uganda. He said Sudan has agreed, and sent two representatives to Malawi, however, the Ugandan side failed to show up at the meeting without giving an excuse, thus showing that it is bent on persisting with the aggression.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry today summoned the charge d'affaires of the Egyptian Embassy in Sudan and informed him of Sudan's protest against the new measures adopted by the forces of the Egyptian regime in Hala'ib. Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, speaking at the ministry's regular forum today, said that the forces of the Egyptian regime have besieged the Sudanese forces in Hala'ib, and have cut off water supply, and prevented supplies from reaching them. The Egyptian forces have stepped

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up their activities by laying mines all along the 22d parallel, which had now been completely mined except for a few gaps used for smuggling.

His Excellency said that the forces of the Egyptian regime are evacuating the citizens, advising them to leave the area or to move to a new site prepared by the regime there. He said most of those citizens have refused to move to the new site, and have stayed in the Marsa Oseif area.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din called on the Egyptian regime to concern itself with the real battle with its people within its own territory.

Al-Bashir Addresses Martyrs' Day Rally

EA2811180395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The country today marked National Martyrs' Day, which was celebrated in Kosti, White Nile State, this year. Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, addressed a mass rally held to mark the occasion this morning, stressing that Sudan will not deviate from its cultural course regardless of the conspiracies being hatched against it by the enemies of Islam and the homeland. His Excellency said that the revolution will confront those conspiracies decisively, and those conspiring against Sudan will be taught lessons as they were taught at Kereri, and later at Umm Dibaykarat.

The president of the Republic stressed that the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Forces will protect every inch of the homeland. His Excellency went on to say that the sons of White Nile State fought on the side of imam al-Mahdi. They have remained faithful, and have sided with the National Salvation Revolution.

He said the Mahdist Revolution will persevere for as long as the Sudanese people stick to the principles upheld by the Mahdist Revolution, which calls for the victory of the religion of truth. He called on the youth to enlist in the jihad battalions to defend the faith and the homeland. [passage omitted]

Training Camp for 'Fundamentalists' Set Up

NC2811130595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1148 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA) — Informed Sudanese sources have reported that the Sudanese Government recently established a camp in the south to train fundamentalists of various nationalities. This is being done under the guise of an organization called "The Youth of the Homeland."

The sources report that the camp, which is financed by the Islamic Alms Treasury [Zakat], has as its motto: Toward a Modern Islamic Society.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Makes Official Appointments

LD2511095495 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a meeting with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui at Carthage Palace this morning.

The head of state reaffirmed his interest in the information sector and his eagerness to make it more efficient and productive within the framework of coordination among the various concerned structures in accordance with a national plan, which his excellency has given permission to be drawn up, to help with controlling the organization of all aspects of information programs in the public sector.

In this context, the prime minister said that President Zine El Abidine had decided to appoint Mohamed Ben Ahmed as a secretary of state in the prime minister's office responsible for information. The head of state also ordered the appointment of Mohamed Naceur Chammam as director general of the National Information Center, and Mrs. Karimah Bounemra as director general of the Regional Institute of Information and Communications Sciences.

Prime Minister Outlines Draft 1996 Budget

LD2811211895 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Karoui this morning addressed the Chamber of Deputies on the draft government budget for 1996. He said that the 1996 budget will be 7.230 billion dinars, an increase not exceeding 7 percent over 1995. He pointed out that individual income rose by 2.9 percent a year in constant prices, while per capita consumption grew by 2.5 percent a year. The prime minister said that GDP growth for next year would be 6.7 percent in constant prices, based on an estimated rise in agricultural production by 12.5 percent and a growth in the other economic sectors of 5.9 percent. The forecast for investment growth, he said, was 12.2 percent in current prices, to attain 4,805 million dinars.

The prime minister said that the economic growth rate and increased investments in 1996 would permit the creation of about 65,000 new jobs in nonagricultural sectors. Karoui stressed that 135 million dinars would be

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allocated for regional development projects, while 110 million dinars would be allocated for local authorities' needs. On the other hand, 374.5 million dinars would be allocated for the agricultural sector, 27 percent of all development funds. He said that considerable amounts of money would be spent on improving roads, railway transport, maritime fishing, and the protection of cities against floods.

Karoui said that textiles would be protected against unfair competition, specifications would be better controlled, and some laws relevant to this sector would be reviewed. Likewise, he said, in 1996 customs taxes would be abolished on a specific list of imported equipment products, a matter which would give fresh impetus to investments and permit the liberalization of prices at distribution level.

Following Karoui's presentation, the deputies began debating the draft budget for 1996. They lauded the social peace and economic growth in the country thanks to the various reforms introduced by the government.

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Saudi Arabia

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 69

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[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — Al-Sulaym..... A New Puzzle

Two days ago, the news of the acceptance of the resignation of the new finance minister, Suleyman al-Sulaym was announced. The actual appointment to this position was only made a few weeks ago. The question is, why is he leaving in such a hurry? Furthermore, did he resign by choice or was he forced to resign? It was claimed that al-Sulaym suffered from an indisposition, but such a reasoney has never before been given as a cause of resignation. However, health reasons are used routinely in such declarations.

It is almost impossible for high officials in al-Sa'ud's regime to resign, mainly because King Fahd's policy of choice does not consider the type of personality that would even think of resignation. Officials who have attempted this in the past have received severe reprimands, and have learned the lesson that the one who appointed them is the one who decides their departure. Fahd's policy does not permit the acceptance of resignations. We have learned from experience, that in the past, resignations were actually sackings.

The appointment of al-Sulaym to the position of finance minister was already controversial, particularly in that his personality was totally different to that of his predecessor, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl. The choice was explained by the concerns of Fahd and his brothers to preserve the confidentiality of the finance ministry within its previous circle and to avoid any further dissemination of knowledge of secrets and information.

Western analysts, who generally base their reports on the experiences of their own countries, thought that the reason behind the appointment was al-Sulaym's support of privatisation, of which King Fahd is most enthusiastic. These analysts, therefore, were probably unaware that al-Sa'ud do not care whether the man they appointed supports their policies or not, as the duty of minister's and high officials serving under the al-Sa'ud regime is total obedience and supplication to their policies, regardless of their own thoughts or opinions.

Fahd does not require a minister who actually believes in privatisation in order for it to be implemented.

Experts on the mental make-up of al-Sa'ud view the Saudi finance ministry as being a family bank for the personal use of the King and royal family. Its main duty is to fulfil the infinite requirements and wishes of the royal family.

Therefore, the main duty of the minister, after providing for the royal family, is to issue statistics and accounts that show everything except honesty and accuracy. Therefore, the question remains, why has al-Sulaym now been forced to resign?

People close to Sulayman al-Sulaym say that when al-Sulaym became fully aware of the realities of the finance ministry, he began telling people within his private circle that he was only a body on a chair and had no real authority. He requested many people that worked with him in the ministry not to refer any important cases to him. He also indicated that he would be leaving his post in the near future. What had pushed him to such a conclusion? His previous position as a commerce minister was an easy position with limited obligations. The minister's duty was mainly concerned with issuing permits for commercial activities, the monitoring of prices and the registration of companies. In such a position, he would not have had much confrontation with the King or other members of al-Sa'ud. Therefore, the ministry did not provide the appropriate environment for al-Sa'ud to test al-Sulaym efficiently. However, in the finance ministry the case is completely different. Causing the anger of the King and his brothers does not only arise from confrontation and differences of opinion. It also occurs if the appointed official fails to comprehend the sensitive financial issues the King and his brothers require. Such lack of skill may not be repeated, as in the 'Abal-Khayl case. Most probably, the reason behind the new appointment of 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir is due to his close similarity to 'Abal-Khayl, particularly as al-Khuwaytir is very enthusiastic about cutting public spending.

Was this resignation — or redundancy — a result of the awakening of al-Sulaym's conscience? Or was it due to the inability and lack of will of al-Sulaym to fabricate the national economy to present it in a way acceptable to al-Sa'ud?

Such questions will be answered soon, as the new budget is due in the near future.

The resignation in itself is clear evidence of the failure and inability of the Government to take any real steps towards reform, and is a disappointment for those who were enthusiastic about the Government reshuffle. The technocrats and the new blood that has been injected into the various ministries cannot make any changes. Time will prove that it is wrong for some of the

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competent, faithful people to deal with a King who has a dictatorial mentality and an unpredictable temperament. Fahd and his brothers can only deal with the old ministers who have left their positions. In fact, the King has even had to resort to re-appointing one of the previous ministers to his old position.

News...

Privatisation and Continued Losses...

The United Saudi Company for Electricity in the Middle Province's losses have reached 144.4 million riyals for the first quarter of this year. This is 8 million riyals more than last year's figures. During the same period, the United Electricity Company in the Southern Province incurred losses of 190 million riyals. Observers of the Kingdom's economy were astonished by such losses which occurred despite the massive increase in electricity tariffs this year. The company had actually been expected to return huge profits. Internal sources of information within the company unanimously agree that the reason behind the losses is due to the huge expansion in electricity consumption by the vast number of princes, along with a great increase in the number of buildings and properties they own, all of which are provided with free electricity. Financial analysts believe that al-Sa'ud will further increase electricity tariffs in the next budget.

We can confirm that the princes will continue to increase their consumption and that the companies will continue to register huge losses. On the other hand, the overall performance of the electricity companies for this year was extremely unsatisfactory, as power cuts have become a normal occurrence, lasting for many hours during the heat of the summer in many areas.

The American Media Exposes Maha al-Sudayri...

A number of American news agencies relayed, with great interest, the news regarding Maha al-Sudayri's assault on her maid. The ABC television network broadcast a detailed news report regarding the incident and some photographers managed to enter her accommodation and film her in person. Until now, Nayif has been unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion with the maid in question about her complaint to the police. The television news reader reported that Maha al-Sudayri had booked two complete floors in a huge Florida hotel amounting to 90 rooms in total. Her accommodation reportedly cost approximately one million dollars per day. The news reader also commented that Maha al-Sudayri seemed to believe that the hotel area booked in her name was actually her own land under her influence and jurisdiction, and did not consider herself to be under American law. Her guards even attempted to remove the TV. cameramen from the building and tried to confiscate their equipment. It was also mentioned that Maha al-Sudayri physically abused her maid and kept her prisoner for several days in one of the rooms. ABC carried an interview with the representatives from the police assigned to investigate the incident, and also interviewed an expert on the mentality of al-Sa'ud and the behaviour of their women.

Al-Sa'ud and The Tribes...

A prominent figure from the Ruwallah tribe was personally invited by the leader of one of the Gulf countries, and was given an excellent reception on his arrival. Large sums of money were placed at his disposal, along with a few hundred passports to distribute to whom he pleases. In return for which he provided detailed and accurate information regarding the devious actions of the Saudi royal family, particularly with regard to their sexual indiscretions. It is not yet known as to the reason behind this move, however some observers believe that the Gulf states are attempting to win over the tribal leaders of the peninsula after the humiliating incidents against them over the last two months by al-Sa'ud. A large number of tribal dignitaries were summoned by Nayif and Salman who gave them warnings that al-Sa'ud intended to punish any tribe as a whole if one of its members participated in any opposition activities against them. This step taken by al-Sa'ud against the tribes is probably a result of the discovery of huge support for the Committee amongst tribal figures, particularly in the major tribes. This obviously causes al-Sa'ud a great deal of worry.

Increasing Crime in Jizan...

The ongoing decline in security has meant that the crime rate, especially for murder, has dramatically increased. The Jizan region in particular, has suffered from an unusual increase of murder. Four murders were recorded in just one week at the end of last month, as well as an incident where a man jumped from the third floor of a building after being chased by a group of men. As yet we have no further details regarding this incident. These are all examples of 'law and order' under al-Sa'ud's regime.

Another Hypocrite...

Prince Nayif Bin-Mamduh is one of the princes that attempts to project an image of modesty and piety and religious sincerity. However, he recently gave a lecture at a mosque in Mecca before a large gathering of Shaykhs and Judges where he concentrated on insulting the detained scholars and reformers. The Prince is also attempting to present himself as a prominent figure in the pro-al Sa'ud, al-Jamee group who are probably well suited to be colleagues of such a disturbed personality.

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More Corruption...

Within the general framework of corrupting and reshaping the mentality of students, several more subjects have been made compulsory for all students in the Islamic University. The subjects contain the history of al-Sa'ud and how God has blessed the Arab peninsula with their presence. The University also commenced with the execution of orders issued by the Interior Ministry by making fundamental changes amongst the teaching staff. A number of al-Jamee figures have replaced the sacked Shaykhs and Professors. In addition, many other changes have taken place regarding the syllabus.

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 70

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[FBIS Transcribed Text]

News

Why Al-Sulaym Was Forced To Resign

News from the Finance Ministry states that one of the reasons behnd the forced resignation of al-Sulaym was his stand resulting from a report that was compiled by a British committee of experts that visited the Kingdom to give consultations and advice with regard to the solving of the current financial crisis. This Committee spent several months studying the financial situation in the Kingdom and was requested to carry out the project before the ministerial change. The Committee's report was recently presented and contained numerous recommendations with regard to the necessity of instigating fundamental changes in the method of taking financial decisions and the necessity of cutting spending in many areas related to the interests of the royal family.

Al-Sulaym presented this report, along with his full support for the recommendations it contained and he requested the King to approve the recommendations and to put them into practice, beginning with the imminent budget. The King's reply was totally in the negative and he ordered al-Sulaym to file the report in the Ministry's archives and to ignore all the recommendations suggested in the report. The King then requested the minister to present an alternative and more 'suitable' strategy. The Minster attempted to convince the King that he could not do as he requested and that practicality and logic favoured all the recommendations presented by the British committee, or at the very least a few of them, be adopted.

The King considered al-Sulaym's stand to be disobedient and incompetent as he could present no alternative. This, therefore, was one of the reasons behind the forced resignation. According to further information, there are reports that Sulayman al-Sulaym was speculating about the fall and rise in dollar prices, and that he presented certain ideas to the King, which the King was unable to understand, therefore Fahd considered al-Sulaym to have exceeded his authority.

However, all indications prove that 'Aba-al-Khayl will remain the undeclared minister of finance supervising the preparations for the budget as per the King's wish. High officials in the ministry state that 'Aba-al-Khayl is in most respects the one who is in charge behind the scenes. Al-Khuwaytir, however, will remain at the forefront to ensure the confidentiality of the ministry's dealings.

The Embassy Attempts At Terror

A distinguished personality in the Saudi Embassy in London struck a deal with a gang of criminals to cause severe damage to the Committee's equipment, building and archives, in order to obstruct the Committee's political, educational and media activities, and to cause severe financial losses. The Committee took this threat with great seriousness after confirming its existence from a number of sources, and then contacted the necessary authorities and implemented all possible safety precautions. At present, the Committee is completing the information regarding the personalities embroiled in this criminal activity in order to expose the plot publicly. In addition, various figures at the Embassy have made agreements with a number of criminal gangs to execute a series of terror activities on the houses and cars of those personalities sympathetic to the Committee. The reward for each "operation" was fifty thousand pounds. Due to bad planning, the first of these "operations" was not very successful.

George Galloway MP was chosen as a target in order to frighten him into withdrawing his support for the Committee. Mr. Galloway contacted the local authorities and, unfortunately for the embassy, the one appointed to investigate the incident was the security secretary of the Prime Minister himself. Since then, all activities appear to have ground to a halt. With regard to attacks on members of the Committee, or, indeed assassination attempts, our sources confirm that, despite the Saudi regime's promise to the host country of the Committee not to harm the persons themselves, some of the princes are independently plotting to carry out such attacks. At least one royal personality has arrived in London with that specific reason in mind, but has not yet succeeded in striking a deal.

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Greetings To al-Jawf Citizens

Under immense pressure and great resentment from the citizens of al-Jawf, Muhammad Mansour al-Madkhaly, the head of the al-Jawf branch of the ministry for religious activities, was forced to flee the area fearing the revenge of the angry people of Skaka. Muhammad is a relative of Rabi' Al Madkhali, and both are prominent figures in the pro-Government al-Jamiah group.

A large number of people gathered in Shaykh 'Abdul-'Aziz as-Sirhani Mosque, where Muhammad al-Madkhali presents his Friday sermon, in order to prevent him from preaching in the mosque by force. However, al-Madkhali preferred not to put in an appearance and instead travelled to Riyadh. The cause of this anger and resentment was a letter sent by al-Madkhali to the Ministry of Islamic Affairs requesting the re-appointment of one of the al- Jamiah scholars in al-Jawf. Al-Madkhali gave his reasons as being that the people of al-Jawf suffer from ignorance in their religious knowledge and that the area has no proper preachers.

In spite of the fact that the letter was supposedly very confidential, its contents were leaked and subsequently copied and distributed on a large scale in the al-Jawf region. The people of al-Jawf expressed their anger in many ways, including inundating officials with telegrams and telephone calls, by going personally to local government buildings to express their anger etc. The educated professional people of the region, such as university professors and high ranking army officers, were particularly incensed.

It is well known that al-Jawf citizens are particularly well educated with many respectable preachers, despite the distance of the region from the capital. In fact, many citizens are now in prison as a result of their honourable stands.

The people of al-Jawf insisted on the sacking of al-Madkhali and his exile from the region. They appealed for a case to be brought to court in order to sue him for the libellous nature of his statements. The people of Ha'il, Tabuk and 'Ar'ar also participated in the protest and considered themselves as being included in the insulting statements contained in the letter regarding the northern regions.

A special bulletin was published from the "Al-Jawf Liberals" discussing and analysing the incident.

The Embassy Attempts To Sue the Committee

The Saudi Embassy in London recently attempted to sue the Committee in Court. It used both its own and other prominent lawyers, in an attempt to assist those people exposed by the Committee. Those who are shown, in bulletins and the magazine, as being actively involved in aiding and abetting the Embassy in various activities against the Committee. This action was also taken in order to confuse the Committee and keep its members occupied with court cases and legal matters. However, the Embassy's team of lawyers reached the conclusion that it was better to drop the case as it had no chance of succeeding. At the same time, the Embassy decided to dispense with the services of those exposed for assisting them in activities against the Committee.

Arrests Amongst The Brotherhood

Security forces assaulted a number of houses in Mecca which were the residences of around 25 Egyptians, all of whom were members of the Brotherhood movement. All were arrested and preparations are underway to extradite them to their own countries. All the houses involved were thoroughly searched and books, audio and visual cassettes were confiscated. The actual arrest operation was supervised by officers Zayid al-Harni and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Mansuri. Security sources report that another group will face similar raids and arrests in the near future.

It is reported that the reasons for the arrests were simply that those arrested were known members of the Brotherhood.

We would like to remind the people that whoever hands a refugee seeking safety over to an oppressor to persecute him, is committing an act of disbelief, never mind those who hand over Muslims seeking refuge in the Sacred Mosque of Allah.

The Intelligence and the Police

As a result of the success of the various princes in utilising their influence to control the vice and drugs trade, they have recently entered a new and profitable venture using their considerable influence — the arms trade. This business has expanded so rapidly in the palace of one of the princes that the palace is to all means and purposes an open market for arms and weapons. The prince in question is Saud Ibn-Muhammad al-Sa'ud whose palace in al-Ta'if was a source of weapons trading.

When the intelligence department in al-Ta'if received a report on a location where arms were being sold, they immediately raided the place, confiscated the weapons and arrested the customers. What they did not at first realise was that the location in question was one of the "taboo" places i.e.. they should not be there under any circumstances.

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The Prince was not in al-Ta'yf at the time of the raid, but when he was informed of the situation he swore to teach those responsible for the raid a hard lesson.

A similar scenario happened to a high ranking intelligence officer, Jamil al-Mayman, who was thrown out of the department for drug control because of a raid he supervised on a drugs laboratory situated in the palace of a prince in Riyadh.

The Strike of the Week

Labour strikes have become common practice, particularly among expatriates. Umm al-Qura University cleaning staff, who are employed by the Hanuf Company, went on strike because of a year long delay in the payment of their salaries. Cleaning staff of the contractor company supervising Government buildings in al-Ta'if went on strike and gathered in front of the company head office in Shiharh region. They were eventually dispersed by the police. Another labour strike occurred in al-Jawf area, along with a protest, for the same reasons.

Al-Hamid's Third Arrest

A considerable security contingent raided the residence of Dr. 'Abdallah al-Hamid and escorted him to an unknown location. The manner of the arrest was particularly humiliating, as Dr. 'Abdallah was taken from amongst his guests whilst having dinner. This is the third time Dr. Hamid has been arrested. The first time was after the establishment of CDLR and Dr. 'Abdallah remained in prison for 2 months. The second occasion was before the events in Buraydah, when he was imprisoned for several months. It is not yet known as to the reason behind the new arrest, but we would not be at all surprised if the reason was simply that he had invited a large number of guests for a meal.

Political Divorce

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'lan, Imam of al-Nuwaysir Mosque in Jeddah, was recently arrested. The Shaykh is one of the most respected of scholars and is widely accepted by the public in Jeddah. The Shaykh is an Egyptian national and is blind. Shaykh Said was escorted to the security headquarters office and then to the deportation department. Pressure was placed on him to divorce his Saudi wife, otherwise the authorities threatened to withdraw his wife's nationality and deport her along with the Shaykh. It is well known that the Shaykh is not involved in any political activities and that his only fault is his popularity and wide acceptance by the public in Jeddah.

New Arrests

The arrests campaign continues throughout the Kingdom as three students from al-Imam University in Qasim were arrested during the previous weeks. Those arrested were Ahmad al-Ghafees, Abdus Salaam al-Sukabi and Sami al-Aqil. In Jeddah, eight young men were arrested last week and another was arrested in al-Ta'if.

The Visit of the French Defence Minister

The visit of the French Defence Minister to the Kingdom was afforded unusual coverage in the Media. Prince Sultan and the French Minister were shown discussing the strong relations between the two countries. Observers noticed that there is no major project, ongoing or planned, that requires such a lengthy visit, but it later became clear through various sources of information that the reason behind the visit was a major problem in the Kingdom's ability to pay its debts, along with the insistence of the Kingdom on considering its dues to France as a poor third priority after the USA and Britain.

There is no information regarding the conclusion of the meetings, but it is very likely that al-Sa'ud will resort to pledging oil in the same manner as has happened with the USA and Britain.

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UN's Ekeus Sees 'Positive Developments' in Talks

Meets With Oil Minister

JN2811140495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA) — Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil, met today with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Security Council Special Commission.

Following the second round of talks, Ekeus told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the second round saw positive developments. He said: We acquired new information on Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and missile capability.

Ekeus added that the talks centered on ways to resolve outstanding issues. He said that he will continue the talks this evening with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2811204795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met this evening with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Security Council Special Commission, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by the foreign minister; the oil minister; the minister of transport and communications; Dr. 'Amir al-Sa'di, adviser at the Presidential Office; a number of specialists in military industrialization; and the head of the Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Rolf Ekeus said the results of his visit to Iraq were positive and constructive.

Paper Criticizes Clinton's 'Decision' on Bosnia

JN2911103895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL- JUMHURIYAH described President Bill Clinton's decision to send U.S. forces to Bosnia as a planned move designed to discount the U.S. allies and keep them under U.S. aegis. This decision also aims to control the Balkan crisis, isolate Russia from its vital domain, and weaken the Republicans in the coming U.S. elections.

In an editorial today entitled "Clinton .. A Foot on the Yugoslav Mine and Another on the Russian Cooking Pot," the paper points out that this decision also aims to generate new catastrophes throughout Europe and the Asian industrialized states, plant time bombs everywhere, and blackmail the world whenever peoples and governments move toward securing their freedom and independence.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Britain did exactly the same thing in its former colonies, particularly in the Indian Peninsula and the Arab Homeland, where problems are still generated in a tragic manner as a result of the colonialist policies represented by dividing peoples along ethnic lines and creating borders.

The paper says that through its new decision, the United States believes that it is time for a temporary cease-fire and for joining the plans to rearrange the Balkan area within a regional framework to contain East Europe within the NATO alliance, as well as within a world framework to guarantee that no international bloc competing with the United States will emerge. The United States also believes that it is time to deal a strong blow to Europe, particularly France, and prevent it from establishing a European nuclear umbrella separate from the United States.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the elements of failure of the U.S. decision are already there because the Dayton agreement was imposed through pressures and threats on the Muslims, the Serbs, and the Croats. There is also a strong opposition to this agreement which was only signed because the concerned parties tried to absorb the momentum of the reckless U.S. rushing toward the use of force. The editorial points out that this decision is meant to carry out a new military show to raise the morale of Americans and to convince them that the United States can find magic solutions to all problems in the world.

Paper Assails U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Riyadh Blast

JN2911090495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Nov 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "A U.S. Attempt To Reverse the Facts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many of the documents published by U.S. military and civilian officials in wake of the 30-state aggression on Iraq point out that the United States fears the possibility of an angry reaction by the Saudi Muslim Arab citizens due to the presence of U.S. forces on holy territory, especially since these forces also include Jews and engage in disgraceful and scandalous acts on holy Islamic Arab territory. This is not a secret; it has been reported by the different media and read by the Arab and world public.

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The mounting opposition to the Saudi rulers, who oppress their people, is also known to the whole world, especially the religious opposition which has manifested itself both on the internal and external levels. Thus, when opposition members entered the Mecca Mosque to express their rejection of the Saudi regime's pro-U.S. imperialist policy, they did so in broad daylight.

Furthermore, the campaign which has been, and still is being, waged by the Saudi opposition in protest of the deteriorating political conditions in their country, the absence of human rights, and Saudi subservience to the United States, is known everywhere, even in the United States itself.

But, what is strange is the statement which the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia made after the Riyadh explosion and in which he did not rule out the possibility of Iraq's complicity in the incident. This ambassador forgets that he made a statement to CNN two days before saying that his embassy received threats from Saudi Islamic militias several months before the recent explosion, but that he did not take any precautionary security measures due to his belief that Saudi Arabia is a safe haven where such acts are unknown!

What the U.S. ambassador said about receiving threats from Islamic militias agrees with the announcement made by the group claiming responsibility for the explosion; namely, "the Tigers of the Gulf" [Numur al-Khalij]. This group said in its statement that it informed the American Embassy last April that it would strike at U.S. installations and nationals if they did not leave Saudi Arabia by 1 July 1995.

And, since we also know that another group, calling itself "the Combatant Partisans of God Organization" [Munazzamat Ansar Allah al-Muqatilah], also claimed responsibility for the explosion, the U.S. ambassador's accusation of Iraq is no more than an attempt to influence and divert the course of the investigation by making false accusations. It is also an attempt by the ambassador to absolve his personal responsibility for the incident, since he had prior knowledge through the threats he received. Such accusations can only be viewed as an attempt to misguide and to reassure the Saudi regime by giving it a false picture of what is actually taking place in Saudi Arabia, such as the Saudi Muslim Arab people's rejection of the presence of foreign forces on their territory and the Saudi rulers' pro-U.S. imperialist policy. It is an attempt to give the impression that there is no threat to the U.S. imperialists inside Saudi Arabia and that the threat comes from outside only.

It is one way of exporting the "crisis-problem" and an exposed attempt at finding new justifications for continuing the blockade against our struggler people.

French Senate Member Pays Visit, Discusses Ties

Urges End to Embargo

JN2611150995 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 26, INA—Member of the French Senate, Serge Mathieu said that the embargo clamped on the people of Iraq must be lifted as soon as possible.

Mathieu, who headed the delegation arrived in Baghdad [as received], said that the Senate house will discuss in its session next Wednesday the question of the embargo and he will present a report pertaining to such matter.

Commenting on the reports being submitted to the Security Council concerning the negative sequences of the embargo and increasing pressures on the U.S to quit its hostile policy against Iraq, Mathieu said that France is supporting Iraq to break up the embargo.

Member of the delegation Yves Bonnet said that this visit came within the framework of the initiative and efforts made by the French political, parliamentary and financial quarters to establish new cooperation and normalize relations between Iraq and France. He added that Iraq and France are able to restore their strong economic relations in the near future.

Concluding his statement, Bonnet said that the Security Council must deal clearly and honestly with Iraq and in a way far from imposing any conditions since Iraq has met all its obligations towards the Council.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2611151795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today met with Serge Mathieu, French senator and head of the delegation of the French Senate and National Assembly, which is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the relationship between Iraq on the one hand and the Security Council and UN Special Commission on the other, as well as Iraq's compliance with the Security Council's resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, which also obliges the Security Council to meet its obligations toward Iraq and lift the economic blockade in accordance with Paragraph 22 of the said resolution.

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The deputy prime minister revealed the reasons behind the row over the information and documents which Iraq has handed over to the Special Commission. This row, he said, is aimed at prolonging the blockade to a achieve the selfish U.S. ambitions.

Tariq 'Aziz urged all the world's peace-loving nations and countries to press for the immediate lifting of the blockade.

Mathieu and the accompanying representatives of the French people stressed that there was no longer any justification for maintaining the blockade, which should be lifted in harmony with France's interests and strategic needs in the region.

They also said that the visit was part of efforts to restore normal relations between the two countries and peoples.

Meets With Trade Minister

JN2711160395 Baghdad INA in English
1315 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 27, INA—Iraq's Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here on Monday [27 November] with the French Congress delegation headed by Senator Serge Mathieu.

The two officials discussed the efforts being exerted by the French parliamentarian circles to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq and what has been achieved so far on the French arena in regard with the accumulating negative impacts on the Iraqi people and the French economic interests at the same time.

The delegation, including member of the French National Society Yves Bonnet and others, arrived in Baghdad Saturday on a visit initiated by the Iraqi-French friendship group in the Senate and the Arab-French relations development association.

The French visit is to last for several days. Mr Mathieu, head of the delegation would leave after for Paris to attend the French National Association competitions concerning the foreign budget.

In a press statement as arriving in Baghdad, Mr. Mathieu had said that he would leave for Paris to read a report on the conditions necessary for the lifting of the embargo on Iraq within the framework of the discussion of the French foreign budget by the national association.

The French Congress delegation held so far many meetings with the Iraqi officials among which are Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, head of the Iraqi-French Friendship Society 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi and others.

Meets National Assembly Speaker

JN2711164195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1250 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun today met with Serge Mathieu, French senator and head of the delegation of French parliamentarians from the French Senate and National Assembly, currently on a visit to the country at the invitation of the National Assembly.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker expressed Iraq's serious desire to promote relations with France in all fields in the interest of the two friendly Iraqi and French peoples. He also reviewed the blockade's negative effects on the Iraqi people due to shortages of food, medicine, and other life needs, and the resulting diseases and the death of thousands of Iraqi children, women, and the elderly.

The National Assembly speaker appealed to the world parliamentarians, unions, and organizations to seriously work to lift the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, especially since it has fulfilled all its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions.

Serge Mathieu stressed that the French parliamentarians understand the Iraqi people's suffering from the continued blockade, that they are now convinced that it is no longer justified, and that it now directly affects the economic relations between Iraq and other countries.

He said that the French-Iraqi Friendship Society, with the participation of a number of French parliamentarians, has held a symposium on the economic blockade clamped on Iraq to further enlighten the French public about the Iraqi people's suffering. He noted that the society seeks a gradual lifting of the blockade and the restoration of the Iraqi-French relations to their previous state.

Dr. Safa' 'Umar al-'Ali, chairman of the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee, attended the meeting.

Vows To Work Toward Ending Embargo

JN2811111895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Serge Mathieu, member of the French Senate and head of the Senate's French-Iraqi Friendship Society, has said that during the Senate session on 29 November he will work hard to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

In a press statement published in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH here today, Mathieu added: There has

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been enough silence at a time when we are watching the death of thousands of Iraqi children due to the lack of medicine and malnutrition. Enough of the international community's silence on the Iraqi children's suffering, which has reached the limits of endurance under the obsession of attaining oil-related objectives.

He pointed out that the French-Iraqi Friendship Society in the French Senate is determined to work for restoring French-Iraq relations to normal in a manner that serves the interests of both friendly peoples.

It is noteworthy that Mathieu left Iraq for home to participate in the French Senate session which will be held tomorrow to study France's foreign aid budget. At this session, Mathieu will submit a special report on the blockade which has been imposed on Iraq for more than five years.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Delegation Member

JN2811180695 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA — Iraq's Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz received on Tuesday [28 November] former French chief of military staff corps Jano Lakaz [name as received] currently visiting Iraq heading a delegation including French senators, industrialists, and businessmen.

The meeting tackled the bilateral relations between Iraq and France and the need for enhancing and restoring them to normal.

While reviewing the relation between Iraq and the U.N. Security Council and its Special Commission, Mr 'Aziz stressed that all world countries should work seriously and immediately for the lifting of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq. The embargo harmed not only Iraq, but also many countries which have economic and trade relations with Iraq such as France, he added.

The embargo on Iraq has also resulted in negative humanitarian impact on the peace and stability of the region, said Mr 'Aziz.

For his part, the former French general expressed desire that the friendly and cooperation fruitful relations between Iraq and France be resumed in service of the national interests of both countries' peoples.

The French delegation sternly called for lifting the embargo from Iraq and putting an end to its people's suffering.

Saddam Receives Letter From Sudan's al-Bashir

JN2811195695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has received a letter from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the fraternal Republic of Sudan. The letter deals with the close fraternal ties between the two countries and issues of common interest.

The letter was delivered by Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs and personal envoy of President 'Umar al-Bashir, when President Saddam Husayn received him today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Security at Egyptian Mission in Baghdad Increased

NC2811160695 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 28 (AFP) — Iraqi authorities have heightened security for Egyptian diplomats in Baghdad after the Egyptian embassy in Pakistan was blown up earlier this month, the head of the mission said here Tuesday [28 November].

"Security has been reinforced around the Egyptian interests section and the homes of diplomats," Rida Nasr 'Abd-al-Karim Musa'id told AFP.

Diplomatic relations between Iraq and Egypt were broken during the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait, but Cairo has maintained an interests section at the Indian embassy in Baghdad.

The Egyptian foreign ministry has drawn up plans to increase security at diplomatic missions abroad after the attack at its embassy in Islamabad which killed 17 people on November 19.

Opposition Source on King Husayn Meeting With Kurds

MM2811151495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "King Husayn Meets With Kurds in London"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — An informed source from the Iraqi opposition has told AL-HAYAH that King Husayn [of Jordan] met in London yesterday with two high-ranking members of

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the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leadership and other Iraqi figures. He stressed his intention to continue his efforts for the sake of bringing about "a full, radical, and democratic" change in Iraq.

The source added that the king is aware of the Iraqi people's suffering under difficult economic and social conditions, and "he stressed his willingness to help the people and the opposition to bring about the required change."

According to the source, the Kurdish delegation, which welcomed King Husayn's efforts, said that the Jordanian monarch showed "enthusiasm" when he presented his ideas on Iraq's future. The delegation described him as "humble, friendly, and serious, and he was in a very good mood."

Opposition Radio Criticizes Rajavi's Messages to UN

NC2711165095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The political affairs editor of the Voice of the Iraqi People Radio has commented on two urgent messages which Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi sent today to the UN secretary general and the Security Council on the huge explosion which occurred outside the organization's headquarters in central Baghdad at dawn today

The editor said the measure was an encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty because a political refugee has no right to assume the host country's role in corresponding with officials or international organizations. A political refugee, he added, has no right to send (?private) messages demanding the imposition of sanctions against another country while no statement or comment on the incident has been issued by Saddam's regime which made Iraq's sovereignty open to everyone wanting to encroach upon Iraq.

The editor said Rajavi's behavior reveals that the (?silent) regime in Iraq has lost control over the situation. In addition, the regime is no longer able to keep the tempo of the Iranian opposition organization in harmony with its own now that the situation is out of hand to this humiliating point.

Army Officials Charged With 'Exploitation' of Post

JN2711213495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly held a session today under its Speaker 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun. The National Assembly members seconded a decision by an inquiry commission — formed on President Saddam Husayn's orders — to refer Major General Najm-al-Din al-Naqshabandi, Maj. Gen. Wa'd Mahmud Sulayman, Maj. Gen. Hashim Muhammad Faraj, Maj. Gen. Hatim 'Ali al-Khalaf, and Dr. Majid Khurshid to the competent courts to try them for all the charges brought against them. The charges include the illegal acquisition of residential land, various cars, and funds through exploitation of their posts.

The inquiry commission is headed by Khalid al-Sa'di, deputy head of the Legal and Administrative Committee at the National Assembly and president of the Criminal Court. The commission comprised people who are specialized in financial and legal matters. As soon as it received the presidential orders, the commission started to interrogate the suspects who were referred to it regarding the charges brought against them. After more than two months of investigations, the commission reached important conclusions with respect to all the activities of this government facility [not further identified]. The findings of the commission were presented to the National Assembly during its fall sessions. The commission's decision contained detailed recommendations, which were approved as they were received.

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Peres Weighs Response to Shelling in North

TA2911070895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The residents of the north slept in shelters last night, but the area was quiet following yesterday's katyusha shelling. Seven casualties are still in the hospital in Zefat. Two people, who had heart attacks, are in a serious condition. Life is returning to normal today; schools are reopening and there will be field trips, but the shelters remain open.

Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, has been presented with situation analyses and possible reactions to the katyusha shelling. Any decision will be made by the inner cabinet.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] believes that the escalation is in reaction to the Israel Air Force [IAF] attack earlier in the week in which three senior Hizballah leaders and two Amal terrorists were killed.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, said the katyusha shelling is a blatant violation of all the understandings reached in Operation Accountability. In an interview to Qol Yisra'el this morning, he stressed that Israel must react to the shelling but without harming the peace process.

Peres: Syria Responsible for Hizballah

TA2811165295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1555 GMT 28 Nov 95

[News conference by Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, with domestic correspondents "on the northern border" — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Peres] We take a very grave view of what happened in the Galilee today, of this event launched yesterday by Hizballah. An initial inquiry shows that, in terms of targets and time, they aimed to kill people. Luckily for us there were no fatalities, but that does not diminish the gravity of the act one iota.

There was an understanding between us and Lebanon on the parameters of gunfire. What happened today is in violation of the rules. The pretexts assembled by Hizballah make no sense. They are weak and false, and they sound like contrived pretexts designed to permit them to fire at our towns. We categorically repudiate them; they are unacceptable to us. The impression is that Hizballah has made up its mind to play with fire without giving thought to the outcome of the game. I have to add that the Hizballah act proves once again that there is no government in Lebanon in the most crucial matter — the security of Lebanon. Hizballah seems to have assumed responsibility for defending Lebanon, acting on behalf of Lebanon, and shooting on behalf of Lebanon. There are some grave lessons in this, too.

We have warned the Syrians, and we will warn them again with regard to what has happened, to what may happen, and with regard to the seriousness with which we view these events. We find a big contradiction between the call for peace and the firing of katyushas. The two are incompatible, nor can they be compatible. If, speaking on behalf of Lebanon, Syria says Lebanon will not make a step without it — and we are aware of the Syrian milita[illegible]eployment in Lebanon — Syria has to be responsible [illegible] the actions of Hizballah, whether it likes it or not.

Israel will naturally take the necessary measures to protect the Galilee, to protect the lives of the residents. We will draw the conclusions that follow from the new situation.

I have to note again that the residents of the Galilee are determined to pass this additional test. There have been a few problems, as is natural for such a situation: Some are of a defense nature, such as the bomb shelters; others are economic, such as employment. The government will do its best to assist the residents of the Galilee and to give them the preferential treatment they deserve.

[Qol Yisra'el Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Prime Minister, this was the fifth time Israel vowed to retaliate after katyushas were fired, and it has not done so to date. Do you believe only a political solution can bring calm to our northern border?

[Peres] I am not certain your statement about Israeli nonreaction is an accurate description of the situation. Whenever Israel has information about a concentration of terrorists or a plan to carry out an operation, it takes action as warranted.

As for a political solution, it will come on political grounds, and not as a result of katyushas.

[IDF Radio's Mikha Friedman] Mr. Peres, you said the understandings have been violated. Are they now nonexistent as far as Israel is concerned?

[Peres] So far Israel has acted on the basis of understandings achieved earlier. If we are forced to conclude that the understandings are preserved unilaterally....[pauses] There can be no unilateral understandings; we cannot have understandings with ourselves. If the other party does not honor them, we will draw our conclusions.

[Friedman] It has already failed to honor them, as you said yourself.

[Peres] Yes. We will draw the appropriate conclusions.

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[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, what military solutions — if you can elaborate — will Israel employ?

[Peres, laughing] Do you want me to take out my lists and elaborate on the details? [passage omitted]

[Menashe] Are the agreements with Hizballah null and void as of today, as far as Israel is concerned?

[Peres] Israel is not interested either in verbal or other escalation. We will draw conclusions as warranted by the situation, and I do not think I should make a grandiose pronouncement of any kind. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, does the defense establishment know why it happened yesterday and today, of all days?

[Peres] No. The truth is that we have been wondering ourselves about the lame logic presented by the Hizballah people on the radio. We reject their logic, and we cannot conceive of any other reasons. There had been rules. The understanding was based on the principle that both sides should prevent escalation, because the situation can escalate in a second. We have found no logic in the Hizballah actions.

[Menashe] Mr. Peres, have you spoken to the U.S. secretary of state?

[Peres] Personally, I have not spoken to the U.S. secretary of state, but I have received a message from him.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] with regard to Nasrallah's declarations about the demolition of houses in south Lebanon?

[Peres] The houses that were demolished are empty houses in the security zone, and the reasons for blowing them up were local and operational. We thought the Hizballah warning was irrelevant. [passage omitted]

[Qol Yisra'el's Alan Ben-'Ami, in English] People here in the north I've been talking to say that, quite honestly, they feel the government's hands are tied because of the peace process, because of political reasons, that this has happened in the past.

[Peres, in English] It has nothing to do with the peace process. We are not going to avoid any necessary action because there is a peace process going on. Security comes first. The defense of life comes first, independently of any political process. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, another question, with your permission. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said yesterday in Barcelona that his country is ready to give full peace in exchange for full withdrawal, and that it could be done within several months. Why did your Jerusalem bureau react by saying that the statement represents nothing new?

[Peres] Look, any reference to territory points to something concrete, something definite, while any reference to peace implies a promise with many shades and many limitations. We think that, in view of past experience, we have to be very certain of the kind of peace that is on the agenda. We will not buy skim milk as if it were whole milk; we want to know exactly what their promise entails. It is inconceivable that the Syrians should demand to know the extent of withdrawal before anything else while promising to tell us our side of the agreement later. It is unacceptable to us. They have made concrete demands of us. There were cases in which we gave away all the territories, but I am not certain we got full peace in return. [passage omitted]

Ministers on Syrian Link to Katyusha Shellings

TA2811133495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Efrayim Sne says Israel must start fighting Hizballah with all its might. Interviewed by our correspondent this morning, Sne directed his remarks to Damascus: If your peace intentions are serious, prove it by curbing Hizballah.

[Sne] *Nothing of importance happens in Lebanon without Syria's approval. The shelling of Israel from the Galilee Panhandle in the east to western Galilee is not a local initiative, and had the Syrians wanted, they could have prevented it. I read their failure to prevent it as support.*

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or says that soon Israel may be forced to react in such a way as to make the population of south Lebanese villages that harbor Hizballah feel less and less secure.

[Or] *There is an ongoing war there between terrorist organizations and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops who defend the north Israeli population. Therefore, each time one of these organizations is hurt more than the norm, they allow themselves to fire katyushas, because they are aware of our vulnerability. Despite our vulnerability to katyushas, however, perhaps the day is not far off when we are forced to react in such a way as to make the residents of Lebanese villages, in which Hizballah men hide north of the security zone, feel less secure than they do today.*

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says Syria should stop the Hizballah terror unconditionally. He was interviewed by our correspondent this morning:

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[Netanyahu] *What has been happening is an offensive sanctioned by Syria. In Barcelona, on one hand, Syria speaks of peace; on the other, it has been pressuring us with the murderous Hizballah terror which aims to crumble what is left of the current government's stands — and not much is left. I am certain that the Syrians feel the weakness of the government's stand, and they think that this allows them to exert greater pressure. Shelling civilians goes against every basic rule in the lives of states. Our demand should be short, simple, and unequivocal: Stop the terror, period.*

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 28 November adds: "Security elements have told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the firing of katyushas is a flagrant violation of the understandings achieved in the wake of Operation Accountability."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 28 November adds: "Minister Moshe Shahal says that today's katyusha attacks were done on a large scale and were well planned, adding that the government must react forcefully and effectively to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. Shahal believes the understandings attained in the wake of Operation Accountability have been violated, adding that Israel cannot accept a situation wherein its northern residents are subject to the whims and desires of Hizballah."]

IDF Commander: Katyusha Firings 'May Continue'

TA2811173195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hizballah terrorists fired dozens of katyusha rockets today; 23 rockets were located in the Galilee Panhandle and western Galilee. This was said by Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Maj. Gen. Levin expressed the hope that Israel will find a way to make it clear to Hizballah that the continuation of the katyusha attacks will result in many casualties on the Lebanese side of the border rather than among Israeli citizens. He said that the firing of katyushas may continue tonight and tomorrow; consequently the residents of the north will remain in shelters and security rooms tonight.

Minister Or: Rules of Game in Lebanon May Change

TA2811194095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or by anchor Hayim Yavin in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or, while we go on with our lives as usual, people up there in the north are in shelters. How long can the northern residents continue to suffer?

[Or] The residents of the north do not ask such complicated questions. They are aware of the situation and realize that the Israeli Government's reaction must be such that will provide them with more calm; I am not going to describe operations plans, but there are many things that can be done.

[Yavin] Are we sure that all the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability have been violated?

[Or] We believe so. We have been speaking a lot about Syrian responsibility, but I want to say here that in Lebanon there is a situation today wherein Hizballah has a government, and I am referring to the Lebanese Government. I believe the Lebanese Government must understand that if it is concerned for its citizens it must rein Hizballah in. We said in the past that if the Lebanese Government controls Hizballah and if calm prevails, we will be open to suggestions. The late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that if there are six months of calm in Lebanon we will be ready for negotiations.

[Yavin] So are you lifting part of the responsibility off Syrian shoulders and putting it on the Lebanese Government, despite the fact we know it cannot do anything without Syria's okay?

[Or] True, but it is responsible for the fate of its citizens. Syria is indirectly responsible. A lot has been said on this issue and it is all true — the prime minister spoke of this angle. But there is also a Lebanese Army, and when it wanted to, it imposed its authority on large areas in Lebanon. Why is it not doing so in this area? Because Syria is not permitting it and because it is not concerned enough for the citizens of the south — this is why it is permitting Hizballah to do whatever it wants.

[Yavin] The prime minister and defense minister said we relayed a warning to Syria. I assume we did this via the Americans. Can you tell us anything about its content? What is our present red line?

[Or] I do not want to draw any red lines. We did relay via the Americans a warning that this constitutes a

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violation of the understandings that Syria, Lebanon, and the Americans have signed. We want them to examine thoroughly the significance of this fact.

[Yavin] Are you proposing to escalate our military operations in south Lebanon?

[Or] If you noted what I said, I did not propose anything — because this is not the proper channel for making proposals. I did hint that we may reach a situation wherein we will have to say: Gentlemen, the rules of the game are being changed; no more Operation Accountability or anything else, and the rules have to be reset. Since Syria is not entering the negotiations in a serious way, we cannot continue with the situation that we have just seen on the screen; therefore the Lebanese citizens living north of the security zone should appeal to their government and tell them that it is impossible to go on this way.

[Yavin] If all this does not happen, do you rule out the possibility of some kind of Israeli operation?

[Or] To repeat, I am not going to announce any operations, deployments, or IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity — not on television nor any other media. This is my first day in office as deputy defense minister; today both the prime minister and I toured the area. All in all the residents behaved very well; they too understand there are no magic solutions. I do not support the rhetoric of revenge. I think we should sit down and think things over. I did say that we may have to change the rules of the game, and say that we cannot go on this way any longer.

Reported Change in Stand on Golan 'Speculation'

TA2911061295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israeli sources in Washington involved in the negotiations with Syria have termed as speculation THE WASHINGTON POST story that Israel would give up on its demand for early-warning ground stations on the Golan as part of the arrangements with Syria.

The report was published yesterday quoting Israeli sources who were not identified. It said Israel would agree that American soldiers operate the stations or that there would be no ground stations, and that Israel would receive aerial intelligence information from the U.S. Army. [passage omitted]

Peres Seen Backtracking on Palestinian Track

TA2911120895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 95 p B3

[Article by Orit Galili: "Beilin on the Lookout for Constraints; Peres Moving Backward"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beyond the reasons for Labor's moves in the direction of the NRP [National Religious Party] and Tzomet that are anchored in domestic politics — namely, the desire to be more center-oriented in order to win the elections, for which purpose a dissociation from Meretz' stands is necessary; the desire to isolate the Likud and reduce its strength; and the understanding that only the religious votes can give Shim'on Peres a victory in the first round of the elections for prime minister — there is also a basis for cooperation that is anchored in foreign policy.

Although at first glance it seems that this basis is primarily the result of the process of moderation NRP leader Zvulun Hammer and his associates have been undergoing, it derives to a greater extent from the personal process undergone in the past few months by three men who are close to each other and who have been conducting the political negotiations: Shim'on Peres, Yosi Beilin, and Uri Savir. They now seem to have been joined by Ehud Baraq.

The desire to forge some common ground with the right wing emerged before the assassination but became more acute in the wake of it. And while each of the four men has a slightly different view of the comprehensive solution with the Palestinians, this process has resulted in their abandoning the concepts advocated by Meretz. Some of them abandoned them on tactical grounds and others for substantive reasons.

In the course of the implementation of Oslo B in the past few months, Peres, Beilin, and Savir realized that they will not be ready in the foreseeable future to pay the political price that the explicit paired words "Palestinian state" will exact.

Shim'on Peres, the leading man, is more inclined in this direction than the others. Those who, like writer Hayim Guri, had an opportunity to talk to the prime minister in recent months about his political plans concerning the Palestinians were surprised: They got the impression that, politically speaking, while Rabin was marching forward, Peres was retracing his steps back to the days when he promoted a functional compromise and a tripartite Israeli- Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

One of the people close to him recalls: "Peres has been talking about it a lot recently, and it was really strange to hear him say that a Palestinian state will be established

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only in Gaza and Jericho and that the rest of the territory will remain an autonomy which in time — and he means a long time — will become a tripartite confederation." True to this concept, Peres has avoided specifying at this time what he will be prepared to grant the Palestinians in these territories, begging even the question of an exact border demarcation.

The same source also elaborated on the prime minister's familiar outlook on coexistence with our neighbors — an outlook that is opposed to separation and does not contend that the Palestinians should have a state on the West Bank. In fact, Peres has never fully accepted this solution as the only feasible resolution of the conflict — not even in the days when he was accused of pulling Rabin leftward, toward a Palestinian state. Yet his utopian view of the final arrangement is lacking in two senses at least.

On one hand, the Palestinians and the Jordanians reject his solution, but that is a minor problem for the Israelis. The main problem lies in the fact that the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers and the moderate right wing do not believe that Peres can lead to a functional solution today. Their conviction rests on a solid foundation: The era of Jordanian supremacy and a weak PLO has ended. That reality has changed. For that reason, right-wing interlocutors feel that Peres is trying to sell goods in which he has no faith. In reply to the accusers, Peres says: I always said there would be peace with Jordan, and there is; I spoke of Gaza first, and it happened; I said there will be a functional solution and a confederation in the West Bank — and believe me, it will happen eventually.

Peres' failing is Beilin's strength. The right wing tends to give greater credence to the format of Beilin's solution. In recent months, his concept of the permanent arrangement has moved closer to that of Yitzhaq Rabin. There is one difference: Beilin is not afraid to say that eventually, after we secure the five parameters Rabin listed in a Knesset speech — the Jordan River as the security border; no dismantling of settlements; no return to the 1967 lines; Jerusalem as the capital of Israel; and no right of return — a discussion of a Palestinian state will be possible.

In reply to a question concerning his Knesset speech about Oslo B, Rabin spoke of something that is "a bit less than a state" for the Palestinians, but his confidants maintained that if Rabin accepted that qualification at that point in time, he would probably have come to accept the establishment of a state. The absurdity was that when Beilin, in the course of the past year, spoke explicitly of the need to launch permanent arrangement discussions — to the displeasure of Peres and Savir — his stands were closer to those of Rabin than of the others.

The late prime minister wanted to go to the elections with some sort of framework, even if only very general, for a permanent settlement. He knew that in the election campaign, the right wing will attack him mercilessly for not presenting clearly the outlines of the solution he will reach in the long run. Eytan Haber, the director of Rabin's bureau, used to say that Oslo is a dirty word and that we must therefore think of a different format for an arrangement with the Palestinians in order to be able to market it better.

Based on Rabin's and Beilin's personalities, it can be said with a high degree of probability that they would not have made a commitment to public positions, such as the five parameters, had they not thought that there was reason to believe that the public could accept them. And that is the basis Beilin is considering for possible cooperation with the NRP after the elections. Beilin's proposal to the NRP: You serve as my constraints, and let us move ahead together, annexing 100,000 Jewish settlers to Israel, with the remainder deciding where they want to live.

Another important personality has an influence on formulating policy. Contrary to Peres' position in favor of a functional compromise and a confederation, and contrary to Beilin's belief in a dialogue for a permanent settlement, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir believes in the Oslo process and claims even now that it is the only track for negotiations with the Palestinians. We signed an interim accord, Savir had reminded us lately, and we will not divert from it until the evacuation and redeployment are completed in August 1996. Of course, only if the Palestinians carry out their commitments. If this is not the case, Israel has the right to hold up the implementation, as it did under Oslo A.

On the other hand, however, Savir believes that, prior to the elections, there is no need to progress along the Palestinian track more than we have already. What about the clause in the interim accord about starting deliberations on the permanent settlement in May 1996? There are three years in which to discuss the settlements, those close to Savir say, and in May there will be a nice ceremony to launch that stage, and that's it. "[Former autonomy negotiator] Yosef Burg taught us how to drag things out when we do not want to progress."

Savir believes that the negotiations with the Palestinians should be continued only after the elections because the need to clarify positions on the permanent settlement will ruin Labor's chances of winning. Peres and Savir have similar positions on those tactics, and they now fo-

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cus on the Syrian track. They can leave the Palestinians in Ehud Baraq's capable hands.

In his approach to the permanent settlement, Baraq is Rabin's twin. He also aspires to an arrangement that will include the five components Rabin detailed and to which Beilin is returning. Hayim Ramon, the missing link, will soon join Peres, Baraq, Beilin, and Savir. For tactical reasons, he, like Peres, to say even one word about a Palestinian state.

"A permanent settlement is a project that will take several years," Baraq says. "At this stage, all I can see at the end of the process, besides the State of Israel with the Jordan River as its defense border, are two or three blocs of Jewish settlements, with the rest of the territory — whose status I in no way want to define now — demilitarized. In general, I do not consider the Palestinian side; I consider only the Israeli side." In that, he is like Rabin.

Sarid Criticizes Labor on Palestinian Track

TA2811134895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid says Labor is returning to its old and ill-advised concepts regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, apparently because of the electoral considerations of certain circles in the party. Sarid says Labor is now working out a cantons plan for the West Bank, according to which a Palestinian state will not be established and most of the settlements will remain intact. Sarid reiterated his position that in the framework of an agreement many settlements must be uprooted and the other settlements must be left under Palestinian sovereignty. He said that any other plan is a recipe for confrontation and continued friction between Jews and Arabs. This is reported by our correspondent Gil Litman.

Law Causes Difficulties in Jerusalem Elections

TA2811175295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It transpired today that the Postal Authority Law precludes the holding of elections for the Palestinian council in East Jerusalem post offices. During a discussion on this issue in the Knesset Economic Affairs Committee, chairman Tzahi Hanegbi of the Likud explained that if the government does not amend the law, it will be impossible to adhere to the Oslo B agreement and hold elections in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports that in the discussion it also came about that the date reserved for the elections in the territories, 20 January, falls on a Sabbath, a thing that causes another legal problem, because according to law Jewish post office workers are entitled to a day of rest on that day.

The Israeli-Palestinian coordination and liaison offices in the Qalqilyah region were opened today. A group of Palestinian officers headed by Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the security committee, arrived at the offices and was received by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the area. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports that the opening of the offices was delayed after one of the vehicles transporting the Palestinian officers from Jericho was hit in a road accident.

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today decided that the joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial parks whose establishment was decided in the peace agreements will be established along the Green Line between Israel and the autonomy. Our correspondent Uri Gordon reports that Peres thus accepted the recommendation of the Industry and Trade Ministry. The Foreign and Finance Ministries, on the other hand, recommended to establish all the parks within the autonomous areas. Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish today expressed the hope that this decision will pave the way to the quick establishment and opening of the industrial zones, seeing that now the entrepreneurs will be able to obtain the help of the Israeli authorities in establishing their factories.

Arrangements for Election Observers Detailed

TA2811114795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 95 p A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A vanguard force of some 70 EU observers arrived in Israel last weekend and set up its headquarters in Ramallah as part of its preliminary preparations for the elections in the territories. Approximately half of the 1,500 observers slated to supervise the elections will come from the EU and other countries, and the remainder will be Palestinians from the West Bank.

In an unusual move and in coordination with Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, the Foreign Ministry has decided to grant the observers diplomatic status. Defense establishment sources said this was a "special gesture." The special status was granted despite the fact that the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians stipulates that the foreign supervisors are to be granted only observer status.

The foreign observers will begin the necessary preparations at their headquarters in Ramallah and will spend

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their nights in a Jerusalem hotel. In another Israeli gesture, the foreign observers have been allowed to travel by car, some of which were brought from abroad. The cars will have white diplomatic license plates bearing the digits 22 and the English initials of the name "EU." In addition, each car will carry a special identifying sticker on the inside of its windshield to prevent attempts by terrorists to pose as diplomats. The observers are supposed to employ Palestinian drivers, but the security aspect of their employment has not been resolved yet.

Furthermore, it has been agreed that the foreign observers will travel only in convoys in the West Bank. The first cars were brought to Israel thanks to speedy work on the part of the customs department and the Finance Ministry. It is believed that the observers will have some 500 cars.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers have been given a special pamphlet containing clear instructions on dealing with the foreign observers. According to the instructions, the soldiers are not to confront them, fire at them, or arrest them and must avoid any friction with them. Soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza were given special phone numbers of centers they are to contact in case some incident happens or something goes wrong. [passage omitted]

NRP Faction Reiterates Position on Oslo Accords

TA2811134695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 95 p A5

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The position voiced two days ago by Zvulun Hammer, chairman of the National Religious Party [NRP] — which denoted a more moderate position and recognition of the Oslo A and B accords — got an impressive boost yesterday from the NRP Knesset faction despite the pressures exerted on it by representatives of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and a delegation of extreme right-wing reserve officers.

At the end of a five-hour debate, the NRP faction passed a series of resolutions backing Hammer's position. The first opens with a declaration that "the NRP opposes the Oslo accords and regards them as threatening the establishment of a Palestinian state and harming the settlements and state security." The following clause, however, actually stipulates that the NRP recognizes the Oslo accords as a fait accompli. It states: "The NRP has not changed its position about Eretz Yisra'el and our right to live in it. Nevertheless, the NRP believes that no future government will embark on war in order to return to the cities we left, unless security circumstances or gross violations call for a response."

It is worth noting the last clause, which points to the shift emerging in the NRP's positions toward the center of the political map. It suggests a future amendment of the party's platform that will bring into account the changing political reality as a result of the Oslo accords. The clause states: "In anticipation of the coming elections, the NRP's platform will take its unchanged principles and the facts that have already been established into account and will formulate its alternative approach accordingly."

The resolutions also mention the Yahalom-Porat document submitted by the NRP to Labor. The faction notes that the document was formulated in a bid to arrest the signing of additional political agreements and a withdrawal from additional areas, and to defer to the election campaign the decision about irreversible political moves, such as continuing the redeployment in the West Bank ("Oslo C"), a peace treaty with Syria, and the permanent arrangement. The resolutions state that the NRP will not agree to any change in the document signed by the Labor and NRP negotiating teams.

The faction further notes that "if Labor gives in to Meretz' pressures — which seems likely at the moment — it will be dragged into a political process characterized by the hastiness and radicalization which the NRP categorically rejects." [passage omitted]

Yisra'el Har'el, chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, lashed out at the NRP and Hammer: "The paradox is that I am truly not worried about the NRP's position but about its behavior. This is not the first time we have seen the NRP wavering whenever we encounter a political crossroads. It takes rash steps and then reverts to its former position. From the educational point of view, sometimes this happens too late, after the damage has been done."

No'am Arnon, spokesman of the Jewish settlement in Hebron, announced the establishment of a new group in the NRP aimed at returning the party "to nonrecognition of any foreign rule in Eretz Yisra'el, nonrecognition of the PLO, nonacceptance in principle of the Oslo accords and a drive to annul them."

Knesset Approves Appointments; YI'UD Disbands

TA2811093995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Knesset yesterday endorsed the cabinet's decision to give Prime Minister

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Shim'on Peres the Economics portfolio in addition to his position as defense minister.

Peres is expected to head the Economics Ministry only for a few months until the ministry can be disbanded.

The Knesset also approved the appointments of the deputy ministers. The only changes were the addition of Salah Tarif (Labor) as deputy interior minister and Ori Or (Labor) as deputy defense minister. [passage omitted]

The three-member YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction went "left, right, left" yesterday and finally marched off in two different directions.

After hours of discussion, much of which both bewildered and bemused veteran political observers, MK [Knesset Member] Ester Salmovitz and Deputy Housing Minister Alex Goldfarb officially quit YI'UD to create a new faction: 'Atid (Future). The move left Energy Minister Gonen Segev as the sole representative of YI'UD, a faction which is itself a splinter from Tzomet. [passage omitted]

Tzomet Leader Receives Threatening Letter

TA2811135295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 95 p A7

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zerahya]

[FBIS Translated Text] A threatening letter addressed to Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan arrived in the Knesset building. The letter said: "Fascist scum — your day will come! You are in our sights!" The letter was signed by ESHEL, the Hebrew acronym for Fighting Leftist Vanguard. In response, Eytan said that "apparently there are lunatics on the leftist fringes, too."

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Crown Prince: Barcelona 'Extension' of Amman Summit

JN2911075495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, on Tuesday [28 November] described the European Mediterranean conference, which concluded in Barcelona Tuesday [28 November], as an extension of "the collective effort of the 63 nationalities which contributed to the success of the Amman economic summit."

Speaking after chairing a Cabinet session, Prince Hasan said he was able during his recent visit to Luxembourg to get familiarised with developments in the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue.

Prince Hasan, who was briefed at the session by Finance Minister Basil Jardaneh on the 1996 draft fiscal budget, commended the economic reform programme and said the Kingdom was on the right track in restructuring its economy.

International evaluation of this restructuring programme, the Prince said, attests to the fact that "we reached the threshold of spending without resorting to foreign expenditures."

The Regent said he was hopeful that the government would be able to strike a balance between the available resources and the needs of citizens and ministries.

"I believe, thank God, that we are on the right track, but what is important is to explain such matters to citizens, and I am fully confident in the council of ministers in this regard."

Prince Hasan told the press after the meeting that it was difficult for him to judge the draft fiscal budget, adding that it will be discussed extensively in the coming few days.

Before the start of the Cabinet session, Prince Hasan had a meeting with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir and discussed with him "a number of important issues," Jordan Television reported.

JTV said the meeting focused on the fiscal budget.

Mr. Jardaneh told the Crown Prince that the budget was the outcome of five years of continued efforts in implementing the economic reform programme.

He said this budget does not include any deficit when foreign assistance is taken into consideration.

New Budget Announced; Public Revenues Up 7.5%

JN2511210195 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 25 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video from the "News at Ten"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah has outlined next year's state budget estimates and features. Jardanah told a news conference the budget is estimated at about 1.8 billion dinars. He added the budget had been prepared on the basis of achieving economic reform for the coming year.

Mr. Jardanah added the main features of the budget were self-reliance through rationalized government expenditure, income generation, and reduced consumption. Jardanah said there was an increase in public revenue of more than 125 million dinars from last year's, an increase of 7.5 percent.

Finance Minister Unveils Draft 1996 Budget

JN2611101895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand; all figures as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Finance Minister Basil Jardanah on Saturday unveiled a JD 1.798 million draft budget for fiscal 1996, reflecting an 11 per cent increase over 1995 and a 21 per cent rise in capital expenditure.

The actual deficit in the budget was estimated at JD 163 million, but the gap will be plugged by grants and assistance, thereby making the budget practically deficit free, Mr. Jardanah told reporters.

"General revenues will cover the full general expenditures, and when we take into consideration interest on military loans the actual deficit (before grants and assistance) conforms with the economic reform programme" being implemented in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr. Jardanah said.

He noted that the deficit was 3.8 per cent of the estimated gross domestic product of JD 5,093 million and, as such, well within the ceilings of the economic reform programme.

The draft budget was presented to the Council of Ministers during its regular session on Saturday, and the Cabinet is expected to discuss it and forward it to Parliament this week so that the legislature, which begins its regular session on Dec. 2, could debate, incorporate amendments as it sees fit and approve it before Dec. 31.

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Unveiling the highlights of the budget at a press conference, Mr. Jardanah also confirmed that civil servants and security personnel, including police and armed forces, would get an across the board monthly salary increase of JD 10 each with effect from May 1, 1996.

The 1996 draft budget envisages total revenues at JD 1,798 million. The projection reflects an increase of JD 128 million, or 7.5 per cent, over the reassessed figure of JD 1,672.7 million for fiscal 1995.

The revenues were split as: JD 1,575 [as published] in local revenues, JD 163 million in grants and assistance and JD 60 million in repaid loans. These compare with the reassessed 1995 figures of JD 1,440 million, JD 173.7 million and JD 59 million respectively.

The figures highlighted a better-than-expected performance of the budget in 1995, particularly that local revenues were originally estimated at JD 1,400 million and grants and assistance at JD 165 million.

Current expenditures are estimated at JD 1,328.4 million, compared with JD 1,225.2 million in 1995—an increase of JD 103.2 million, or 8.4 per cent.

Capital expenditures are projected at JD 469.6 million compared with JD 387.9 million in 1995—an increase of JD 81.7 million, or 21.1 per cent.

The increase in capital expenditures over 1995, Mr. Jardanah explained, represents the government's commitment to invest in infrastructure and also to "upgrade the quality of investments" with a view of attracting private sector capital.

The finance minister did not provide a detailed breakdown of the budget figures and Finance Ministry officials said they would release the detailed version of the draft budget on Sunday.

In general, Mr. Jardanah said the draft budget was drawn on the basis of the following:

— Keeping the deficit well within the ceilings of the economic reform programme;
— Increasing self-reliance through controlling government spending and improving local revenues to cover current and capital expenditures;
— Encouraging national savings through reducing consumption and channel additional local resources to national investments.
— Setting specified programmes and performance that would allow for a clear assessment of governments.
— Improving the conditions of civil servants and security personnel within the confines of available resources; and
— Giving priority to government investments in infrastructure (roads, communications, water and electricity), and projects in tourism and culture as well as projects that benefit the youth.

"The draft budget not only meets the requirements of the economic reform programme but also the new dimensions brought in by the recent amends to the income tax and sales tax laws as the investments promotion law," said Mr. Jardanah.

Weekly Chief Editor, Cartoonist To Stand Trial

JN2811213395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Nov 95 pp 1, 28

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman's Public Prosecutor Jamal al-Zu'bi has decided that the chief editor and cartoonist of the weekly newspaper AL-BILAD will stand trial at the Amman Court of First Instance. This comes following investigations into their case motioned by the District Attorney's office against the newspaper based on a complaint filed by the House of Representatives speaker.

In his decision, the public prosecutor leveled three charges against AL-BILAD's chief editor and cartoonist. The first charge is failure to comply with the ethics and morals of the profession by publishing an unrealistic report in violation of Article No. 9 of the Press and Publications Law. The second charge is publishing material that conflicts with national responsibility and is against respect for the nation's values in violation of Article No. 8 of the Press and Publications Law. The third charge is slandering and harming the House of Representatives in violation of Article No. 119 of the Penal Code based on a cartoon published by AL-BILAD that was considered harmful to the House of Representatives.

AL-DUSTUR learned from legal sources that in his decision, the public prosecutor says that while practicing freedom under the supremacy of the law, the press should not exceed its mission of disseminating knowledge and information nor unrestrainedly publish irresponsible cartoons that violate the ethics of the profession. It goes without saying that work under democracy does not mean that one can do whatever he wants. Indeed, in the public prosecutor's view, democracy means that one should not do anything against the law.

In another development, AL-DUSTUR learned that the public prosecutor listened to the testimony of Hasan Salman, head of the Press and Publications Department's legal office. The public prosecutor considered this testimony as part of the evidence presented to the court.

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Al-Hirawi Denounces 'Israeli Attacks' in South

NC2811173295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has denounced the Israeli attacks against civilians and peaceful villages in southern Lebanon. He affirmed that Lebanon is doing its utmost, by various means and on all levels, to confront these attacks. Addressing a delegation from the Cultural Council of southern Lebanon led by Deputy Habib Sadiq, which visited him at the B'abda Palace today, President al-Hirawi said southern Lebanon has always been a top priority for the government and for him personally.

Hizballah Official: Northern Israel Not Safe

NC2911080895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has affirmed that the settlers in northern Palestine will not be safe as long the bombardment of our kinsfolk continues.

He declared: We are in a state of confrontation with the enemy. We will select the method of retaliation, the appropriate time for it, and its size in accordance with our assessment of our people's interests.

The Islamic Resistance, meanwhile, has announced that one of its groups shelled the enemy's al-Dabshah post at 1700 yesterday while a Zionist military delegation was visiting it. It announced that the mujahidin's shells hit their targets accurately.

Israeli Aircraft Raid al-Nabatiyah Area

NC2811130795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1242 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah has just informed us that Israeli warplanes carried out three raids on the army's deserted barracks in al-Nabatiyah a short time ago. The correspondent added that Habbush, Mayfadun, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah are coming under shell fire.

Israeli Overflights, Shelling Reported in South

NC2911102595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces have continued their assaults against south Lebanon. Israeli artillery shelled Mazra'at al-Hamra', the periphery of Jibshit, Zawtar al- Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Jabal al-Rafi', at 0930 today.

The occupation forces' artillery in al-Zaffatah bombarded the vicinity of al-Sawwanah in the central sector of the border area.

At dawn today, Israeli warplanes raided the wadis close to Majdal Silm and Khirbat Silm.

The Israeli planes have also been carrying out low-altitude reconnaissance flights over western al-Biqa'. The flights were still going on at the time of this newscast.

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Radio: Ross Plans Visits to Syria, Israel

JN2911072095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Nicholas Burns, spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, said in Washington yesterday that Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process, will visit Syria and Israel next week in an attempt to activate talks on the Syrian track.

Damascus Radio Reports Peres' Statement on Golan

JN2711154895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In occupied Palestine, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said in a statement to journalists today that the Golan is Syrian territory, but declined to elaborate further.

The Israeli radio said that this statement fully explains the position of Peres' government concerning the future and fate of the Golan Heights.

Editorial Urges Peres To Activate Peace Talks

JN2711181095 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 23 Nov 95 p 1

[Editorial by AL-BA'TH Chief Editor Dr. Turki Saqr: "Peres' Government Is Facing a Choice and an Opportunity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres formed a new Israeli cabinet, asserting that his government will continue its efforts to achieve peace and hoping that this peace will be comprehensive by the turn of the century. Peres gave people the impression that his government is a pro-peace government, indicating that the Israeli people are unanimous on the need to restart peace talks with Syria. In the aftermath of Rabin's murder, Shim'on Peres said that he cherishes peace more than an election win. He, along with other Israeli officials, underlined the importance of peace with Syria.

We do not want to prejudge Peres, or to question his intentions. However, based on our experience with the peace process over the past few years, we have learned that the criteria are acts rather than words. Much was said about peace and the need to activate the peace process and render it a success when Yitzhaq Rabin formed his own cabinet in the aftermath of the Labor Party's election win on the basis of the peace platform which he declared then. Things, however, later turned out to be completely different. Israel's intransigence grew in intensity and the Rabin government placed further obstacles and difficulties in the way of the peace process to the extent that it was about to collapse.

Observers have noted that the impasse which the Rabin government faced with regard to the peace process was caused by the fact that instead of abiding by the slogans of peace, which it raised, that government began to outbid the anti-peace right wing in Israel. So the Rabin government fumbled and adopted conflicting stands. These stands were hesitant sometimes and very intransigent at other times. Furthermore, it deviated from the bases of the peace process and the course of the peace talks and bypassed them by concluding partial and incomplete agreements through secret and conspiratorial deals.

I would like here to remind readers that when Rabin was prime minister and the engineer of the peace process on the Israeli side the media and psychological warfare organs used to say that in the Israeli Government there are two trends, the first represented by Rabin and the other represented by Shim'on Peres. It was also reported that Rabin used to hide from his foreign minister, Peres, many things about the talks and contacts, and that Peres was more moderate in his proposals and more reasonable in dealing with the peace process and its requirements. Sometimes, these organs used the card of differences, not to say conflict, between the line of Rabin and the line of Peres.

Yitzhaq Rabin was the victim of the extremist racist terrorism, which developed at the hands of the Israeli rulers and the Zionist extremist racists. Today, Peres stands alone without a serious rival, at least in this stage, at the top of power in Israel. He is the incumbent prime minister and the leader of the Labor Party, supported by a parliamentary majority. Also, the political and psychological climate is now very appropriate. This climate was created by the assassination of Rabin, which created a sympathetic atmosphere toward peace and hostility toward the racist terrorists, who, for many decades, directed their terrorism and crimes against the Palestinians and the Arabs. Those terrorists did not hesitate to direct their terrorism against the prime minister of Israel himself. In addition to this, the international atmosphere seeks to achieve peace in the region and to activate the peace process after all that was done to bury it and to stop it practically, if not officially, on the Syrian track in accordance with an Israeli decision, in fact, in accordance with a clear decision by Rabin himself.

We say again that the atmosphere and situation which we referred to are highly conducive for Peres at the current time to implement the policy he adopted, especially if it really aims to take positive steps toward peace.

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Peres was keen to say that he abides by the steps, policy, and positions of Yitzhaq Rabin. Following the recent developments in Israel, he did not hesitate to give statements dealing with the essence of the issues. On the Syrian track, he said that he will not suffice himself with Rabin's proposals and that he will not stick to only one issue of the talks, but will rather discuss all issues.

Observers conclude that the signals Peres was keen to send through his statements rely, in the final analysis, on Rabin's position which practically led to freezing talks on the Syrian track. This position was marked with intransigence and was based on proposals that are rejected in advance as they do not help make any headway in the peace process.

In his policy statement, Peres addressed Syria, saying that the logic of war no longer exists and that the outstanding differences can be settled through negotiations held on the basis of mutual respect. He also called for a genuine effort to put an end to wars. He said that peace between Syria and israel will create a historic opportunity for making peace in the entire region.

If Peres means what he says, then he should go beyond words and the negative and intransigent positions behind which Rabin entrenched himself, thus creating obstacles that precluded the progress of talks on the Syrian talks. Peres should also take a new and clear position that is harmonious with the foundations of the peace process, foremost of which is trading land — all the land, not half nor three-quarters or a quarter of it — for peace. Without such a serious shift, things will remain just where Rabin left them. In other words, Israel will remain remote from the foundations and objective of the peace process and from the requirements of a just, comprehensive, and viable peace — peace which will secure the rights of all parties. In sum, Peres should be brave enough to state that without withdrawal from all the lands that were occupied in 1967, there will be no real progress on the Syrian track. It is absolutely not enough to talk about the desire to put an end to war and establish peace.

The term withdrawal was manipulated when Rabin was prime minister. At certain points, they talked about a partial withdrawal, and at others about an experimental withdrawal to test the good intentions and about a withdrawal in, and not from, the Golan. They talked about a withdrawal commensurate with the peace Syria will give, even though they know that Syria said through its President Hafiz al-Asad that it is ready to make complete peace in return for complete withdrawal. Nevertheless, Israel's rulers avoided in the past saying that they accept withdrawal from all the territories Israel occupied in 1967, although this is inescapable in order to make headway on the Syrian track.

Today, Peres is required not only to uphold slogans about peace and the peace process and about the desire to end the state of war. He should say the word that is indispensable to boost the peace process on the Syrian track and remove the obstacles. For its part, Syria has been for peace right from the beginning. It also adhered to the foundations of peace and cooperated genuinely to help the peace process reach its projected goal. Syria is committed to this position and it will never reverse it. The ball is in the court of Peres' government. The choice Israel has to make is all the more clear. The progress of the peace process hinges on Israel's correct choice.

Paper Urges Peres To Match Words With Deeds

JN2811123595 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by 'Amid Khuli: "Does Peres Mean What He Says?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The musical chairs game played by Israeli Prime Minister Peres and his Foreign Minister Baraq yesterday when they made statements on regional peace is reminiscent of an intriguing contradiction that marked the relationship between the late Prime Minister Rabin and his Foreign Minister Peres. For most often, each of Rabin and Peres made statements denying or even revoking what the other said.

This was seen yesterday. Nonetheless, the protagonists were not the same. They were Peres and Baraq. Peres tried to give the impression that he was abandoning a whole platform of impulsiveness and entrenchment behind flawed and condemnable pretexts cherished by Rabin. He tried to give the impression that a new era of peace has been unleashed with his own assumption of leadership in Israel. He tried to say that he is willing to abandon many of the premises cherished by his predecessor in order to advance the peace process.

Peres sought to invoke optimism over the prospects of the peace process when he said that peace must come before elections. However, Baraq rose to play Rabin's part. He effectively rejected Peres' ideas when he spoke of withdrawal on the Golan, and of other formulas which were all rejected because they are far removed from the spirit of peace and reconciliation, and also because they do not meet the minimum requirements of just peace. The least that can be said about these formulas is that they are meant to obstruct the peace process. This is because there can be no peace as long as the territories are under occupation.

This is how the Israelis have constantly tried to promote their unreasonable ideas.

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But for now, let us brush aside the contradiction between Peres and Rabin, and also the one seen between Peres and Baraq. We do not want to dwell on who best represents Israeli policy. What we would like to say is that the statement Peres made yesterday is highly significant if it reflects a new stand he really believes in, although this statement is merely an acknowledgement of a fact. This fact is an objective one which people may overlook for sometime, but never circumvent forever.

His statement that "an agreement with Syria is highly significant, and would lead to true peace in the region" is an acknowledgement of an objective fact that cannot be denied any longer. The desperate attempts to sidestep Syria and its regional role have all failed. This is what prompted Peres to make this statement.

However, there are fears that Peres did not mean what he said, and that his statement does not reflect a change of heart that takes hard facts into account.

There can be no true or comprehensive peace without Syria. As for the peace deals Israel has concluded with other sides, they reflect attempts at circumventing true and comprehensive peace, to which Syria adheres. The partial deals Israel concluded with some Arab sides were sort of capitulation deals that brought no peace, but rather kept peace at bay. All these deals have clearly stepped up tension and violence and aggravated an already volatile climate in the region, which could unleash its anathema any time. This lends credence to Syria's premise that a just and comprehensive peace alone can bring security and stability, and that a flawed peace would only boobytrap the region and render it a powder keg.

This Syrian premise has remained unchanged since the start of the peace process. This premise reflects a delicate equation that must be present in any peace process and in any serious quest for peace. This is because Syria's reasoning is in line with international legitimacy and its resolutions. Any solution that falls short of upholding this legitimacy will remain a flawed one.

Peres might have subscribed to Syria's premise due to the many long years of blood, death, and volatility.

However, it must be noted that an acknowledgement of facts per se is not enough. Any move closer to the Syrian stand must begin with a championing of this delicate equation, which calls for the achievement of full, comprehensive peace.

Full peace means total and unconditional withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. Once Israel subscribes to this version of peace, Peres will be viewed as a man who meant what he said yesterday. Moreover, he would epitomize his premise that peace with Syria would lead to true peace. A subscription to this version of peace amounts to an acceptance of Syrian constants. This would be the outcome of a realistic reading of the Syrian position, which is grounded in international legitimacy. It must be recalled that there can be no peace without international legitimacy.

As for the statement made by Baraq, it appears as a sort of political nonsense which Peres must swiftly disavow if he means what he says.

For the statement made by Baraq effectively revokes Peres' statement. Israeli officials must abandon this pastime, and avert any disputes that could spark a power struggle which has become a thing of the past—or so we thought.

Will Peres attempt to move from the stage of making statements to that of creating palpable realities? Will he match his words with deeds? Will he announce his respect for Syria's legitimate rights, and his willingness to effect a complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon? Is he ready to withdraw Israeli troops to the 4 June 1967 borders?

If he is serious, he should not miss the opportunity. As for the path to peace, it is obvious. It is our hope that the United States will soon test Peres' credibility against his statement before it is lost in the midst of domestic Israeli developments.

Israeli Readiness 'To Translate Words Into Deeds' Viewed

JN2811163495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Barcelona conference on European-Mediterranean partnership witnessed a heated debate on the Middle East peace process. When Israel's foreign minister made a call for peace, said that peace has strategic importance for Israel as well as for Syria, and called for shattering the walls of skepticism, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' responded by saying: If what the Israeli foreign minister said constitutes a commitment before this conference and expresses a readiness to translate this commitment into action, then Syria is positively ready to commit itself to full peace in return for full withdrawal, reinforced by security measures that guarantee equal (mutasawi) security for both parties, it will then be possible to reach a peace agreement within the next few months.

We do not believe that there is a clearer position than this, and we do not believe that there is a stronger commitment than that which was demonstrated by Syria in

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the presence of a large number of European countries taking part in the Barcelona conference. Syria was keen to emphasize, through its foreign minister, that Israeli withdrawal should include all the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be secured. Peace, in the final analysis, should be based on foundations and facts that should lead to entrenching justice and ending injustice, suppression, occupation, and usurpation. These foundations will create an atmosphere of confidence and security in the region. This requires the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and Israel's renunciation of the law of the jungle.

Throughout the many years that followed Israel's establishment in the region, we heard nothing from Israeli officials other than threats of war and expansion. They constantly stated that Israel's borders are where the Israeli soldier stands, that is, they are open borders that can be expanded. Four years have passed since the Madrid conference was held, and the peace process remains locked in a impasse and is mired by Israeli obstacles, foremost of which is rejecting withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, continuing settlement activity, and demonstrating clear ambitions under the pretexts of security.

The peace process on the Syrian track, for instance, has not made any significant progress although the conditions for peace are clear, well known, and well perceived by the Israeli officials before anyone else. The stumbling of the peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, can be attributed to causes in Israel itself. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin chose to appease the extremists, who advocate rancor and racism, instead of facing the Israeli people with the facts and requirements of peace. The net result was that he was assassinated by those extremists who publicly announced their hatred of peace and intention to destroy it.

Today, there is a rare, historic opportunity for establishing a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy in a manner that would return the rights to their owners and ensure security for all. So, will the new Israeli Government live up to the facts of peace and translate words into deeds?

Syria has presented all the facts at the Barcelona conference. It urged Europe to play an effective role in the region in favor of the peace process in order to support the U.S. efforts and emphasize partnership and cooperation between the two banks of the Mediterranean. We do not think that there is anybody who can cast doubt on Syria's credibility. Syria has committed itself to peace to the largest extent possible and committed itself to constructive cooperation with Europe.

Press on Barcelona Declaration, Israeli Policy

JN2911100095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today entitled "The Barcelona Declaration and Circumventing What Is Familiar," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Barcelona Declaration circumvented the familiar western discourse which flatters Israel. It acknowledged the wronged party's right to resist the aggressor. The Barcelona Declaration also acknowledged the UN's rejection of occupation and aggression.

AL-BA'TH points out that this circumvention of what has been familiar of Europe has not satisfied Israel which considers occupation a legitimate thing, and the settlement activity in the occupied territories an Israeli right. This is best proved by the Israeli authorities' adherence to the so-called Knesset decisions which consider Jerusalem an Israeli city and the occupied Arab territories as Israeli territory.

AL-BA'TH believes that the European understanding of the region's issues has circumvented the Israeli and Zionist propaganda concerning this aspect of the Barcelona Declaration. This is because Europe has begun to realize that European security is linked to Mediterranean security and that only the Israeli occupation of Arab territories poses a threat to the security and peace of the Mediterranean region.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel refused to acknowledge many things, including the Security Council resolutions and other international recommendations, however, the Barcelona Declaration said what was not said in other conferences, such as the Casablanca and Amman conferences. It frankly asserted that occupation is rejected and that resistance of occupation is a legitimate action.

AL-BA'TH asserts that those who opened the door wide for Israel to penetrate deep into Arab territory in the name of development and the new Middle Easternism will lose their wager. In contrast, the Barcelona Declaration requested Europe to assume its responsibility toward peace in the Middle East. It also convinced Europe that the danger still exists as long as occupation continues.

AL-BA'TH adds: As far as we are concerned, the allegations that the world does not dare confront Israel should not be a reason for the rushing and capitulation to the usurper and aggressor. Rushing toward Israel is due

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to the fact that those concerned are actually convinced of what they have embarked on. It is not due to the fact that Israel, with or without a mediator, is controlling the international and regional decisions.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which emphasizes the full Israeli withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, will not bargain over its principles. Syria adheres to its constants. What Syrian diplomacy achieved in Barcelona will also be achieved in other places and international meetings until the aggression has been removed and international will and peace have triumphed.

Discussing the same topic, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Barcelona conference clearly acknowledged that people's right to resist occupation should be secured. The Barcelona Declaration granted people the right to use legitimate means against the acquisition of others' territories by force. This means that resistance has the right to use legitimate means against Israeli occupation.

TISHRIN adds: The Barcelona Declaration also stressed that all participants in the Barcelona conference support the achievement of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the pertinent Security Council resolutions and the Madrid formula, including the land-for-peace principle. It also stressed the work for banning nuclear arms proliferation and enabling people to exercise self-determination.

TISHRIN believes that the EU must enhance its tasks and activate the European role by working out plans and programs which will secure the practical translation of the positions taken by the participants in the Barcelona conference. European partnership with the Mediterranean states should stem from an objective and balanced vision and from a genuine desire to contribute to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and achieving full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN asserts that success in turning the Mediterranean and Europe into a region of security, stability, cooperation, and prosperity first begins with possessing a political will which expresses commitment to full peace in return for full withdrawal. This full withdrawal should be consolidated by equal [mutasawiyah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: At a time when Syria welcomes the results of the Barcelona conference, we can only emphasize that a dynamic and comprehensive dialogue, constructive cooperation, and mutual partnership between the Arabs and Europe will not only enhance the principles and objectives of the Barcelona conference but also lays the pillars of real and positive relations.

Discussing the same topic, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Euro—Mediterranean cooperation has been unleashed amid wide hopes for entrenching the pillars of real Euro-Mediterranean partnership based on cooperation in various fields to achieve mutual benefit under security and stability.

The main banner at Barcelona is that it is the prelude to a new long phase which will transfer the two banks of the Mediterranean from mistrust, from the colonialist legacy with all its leftovers, and from collision and chaos to trust, interaction, and stability in a way that will move the Mediterranean Basin to a state of peace, security, and prosperity for all participants.

AL-THAWRAH believes that by this standard, partnership is a civilized interaction based on constructive dialogue and not on chaos. Partnership also requires stability which can only exist if aggression is removed. Israel maintains a state of aggression on the Arabs in general, and now on Syria and Lebanon in particular.

The paper adds: Stability is based on a just and comprehensive peace. In turn, such peace necessitates Israeli fulfillment of the peace requirements and Israeli response to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The practical unleashing of the Mediterranean partnership is an important event. Action, however, remains the most important thing. Turning ideas into actions and translating principles into practical moves are the yardstick for making the Mediterranean Basin a zone of security, peace, and constructive rapprochement based on Europe's feeling of its historic responsibilities toward this region and of its current responsibility toward entrenching the pillars of peace, security, and development now and in the future.

Israel Urged Not To Send 'Contradictory' Signals

JN2811092695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 28 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial entitled "Translating Words Into Deeds," the newspaper TISHRIN points to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks that the Golan is Syrian territory. It also discusses Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq's call, in his speech to the Barcelona conference, for achieving a firm peace in the region.

TISHRIN says: It is insufficient for the Israeli officials to announce their intentions. These intentions should

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be translated into deeds. Israeli officials should stop sending contradictory signals, especially since they are fully aware that Syria cannot sell out an iota of its land or any of the national and pan-Arab rights. They also know that the chances for peace in the region have begun to decrease, and that if the remaining time is not exploited to effect a real Israeli turning point toward peace, then this opportunity may not come again for many years.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has constantly called for achieving a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, and which consolidates international law and not the law of the jungle. The paper asserts that the Golan has always been Syrian territory, and that the simplest components of peace include removing the Israeli occupation of this territory, as well as returning the Golan to the motherland and the Golan evacuees to their homes and property.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israel's credibility regarding peace is first represented by a frank Israeli commitment to withdrawal from the whole Golan and Israel's readiness to translate this commitment into a tangible reality.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Middle East peace process constitutes what can be considered as the prevailing atmosphere at the Barcelona conference. This conference will focus on ways to enhance Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in various fields and increase mutual confidence on the basis of justice and equality.

AL-BA'TH adds that these important objectives—which are necessary to achieve the aspirations of the Arab and European sides in terms of economic cooperation, development, and prosperity in the Arab homeland—can only be realized by fulfilling a host of terms. The most prominent and urgent term is to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in a way that will ultimately eliminate all hotbeds of tension, explosion, and disturbances, particularly eliminating all forms and manifestations of aggression, occupation, usurpation of rights, terrorism, and stockpiling of the weapons of mass destruction. The paper says: No one disputes the fact that Israel continues to be the only party responsible for the creation and continuation of these hotbeds of tension.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: A just and comprehensive peace is not only an important Arab and Middle East demand, but also an important European need in view of the special and distinguished historical relations and links between Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Under the headline "The Barcelona Conference and a New Phase," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: If the Barcelona conference convened to make the Mediterranean region a zone of constant security and prosperity, it must have taken into account the fact that this objective can only be achieved by meeting the minimum terms for success in realizing stability and establishing a comprehensive and just peace in a region that has only witnessed disturbances and wars for 50 years.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As Arabs, we hope that Europe's political role in the region will rise up to the level that corresponds to Europe's great economic strength by promoting the peace process toward the objective of establishing a just and comprehensive peace that will end all the manifestations of occupation, repression, disturbances, and unrest.

The paper points to the repeated Arab calls for an active and effective European role to promote the peace process. These calls have constantly expressed interest in establishing mutual relations of understanding between the two banks of the Mediterranean Sea and in consolidating Euro-Arab relations in a way that serves the interests of both neighboring groups.

At the same time, AL-THAWRAH highlights Israel's intransigence and positions which refuse to respond to the requirements of peace. This has made the southern bank of the Mediterranean Sea tense and threatened it with explosion. The paper adds: The problems of the Mediterranean Basin require a comprehensive and harmonious approach in accordance with just and equitable bases.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: No doubt, Europe's large political and economic presence can contribute to achieving a comprehensive and just peace if Europe takes a balanced position in favor of the components and bases of peace and if it works for effecting an Israeli response to these principles.

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Afghanistan

International Action Urged Over Taleban Raids

LD2811144895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan government's high council has called for practical and serious action by internation forums and organization against the Taleban and their foreign supporters and for the prevention of acts of heavy weapons and aerial bombardment of the defenseless people by them. According to a report by IRNA, the council, which is considered the highest decision making authority in Afghanistan, yesterday said in a statement: Recent attacks by the Taleban on the Afghan capital of Kabul, where they have resulted in the killing and injuring of hundreds of children, women and men, do not conform with any Islamic and humane norm.

Calling on all jihadi parties and organizations to join the government in its dealing and struggle against the Taleban, the statement also calls Pakistan the perpetrator of the killing in Kabul. It calls on the Pakistani people and parliament to bring pressure to bear on Benazi Bhutto's government to stop interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and supporting the Taleban.

The Afghan government's high state council has mentioned in its statement that the government has reliable and undeniable documents on the landing of aeroplanes with ammunition and arms on board in Afghanistan and on the support of the Islamabad government for the Taleban's air raid on Kabul which will be presented if requested. Pakistan has thus far denied the Afghan government's allegations.

UN Secretary General Concerned Over Kabul Bombs

LD2811231095 Tehran IRNA in English 2146 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Nov 28 (IRNA) — The U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali today expressed grave concern over the recent escalation of fighting around Kabul, in particular the bombing of the Afghan capital on Sunday [26 November] which resulted in many deaths and injuries among civilians, including women and children.

The Taleban militia, which have rejected the U.N. peace proposal are currently engaged in fierce fighting with the forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and have carried out a series of air sorties on Kabul, leaving a trail of death and destruction.

In his statement, Ghali appealed to all parties to exercise the "maximum restraint" and called upon them to cooperate with the efforts of the U.N. Special Mission headed by former Tunisian Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Mestiri, aimed at achieving an immediate ceasefire.

Mestiri's mission also calls for promoting negotiations among the parties concerned on a transitional mechanism for the transfer of power to achieve a just and durable settlement acceptable to all parties.

Islamic Army Captures Taleban Positions in Kabul

LD2811173995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have lost more positions in the southeast of Kabul. Today, the Taleban's four positions [words indistinct] were captured by the Islamic Army's mojahedin. BAKHTAR correspondents who have visited the front lines report that the Islamic Army forces and mojahedin have killed dozens of the demoralized Taleban in a counteroffensive and wounded a number of others. The Air Force warplanes bombarded the Taleban fortifications several times today inflicting loss of life and damage on the hireling Taleban.

An Islamic Army commander Qari Hasan said: The aim of the Islamic Army forces in this direction is to cut the Taleban's communication lines. We are close to achieving this goal. We have captured more mountaintop positions and now all the heights overlooking Band-e Ghazi are under our control.

He said: Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have withdrawn all their heavy weapons and are fleeing. During today's operation 13 Taleban fighters were killed and their weapons came into our possession.

Our reporters write that the Islamic Army's high morale is the guarantor of their victory. [Words indistinct] The Islamic army forces enjoy good logistic capabilities and heavy weapons firepower and they seem to be better prepared for an offensive.

Islamic Army Controls Heights Around Band-e Ghazi

LD2811182295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] yesterday seized 10 important and strategic posts on the heights of the Khvord-Kabul and Botkhak regions.

A source in the ISA's Ministry of Defense reported told BAKHTAR that the courageous forces of the Islamic Army launched a major attack yesterday morning on the positions of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban, clearing 10

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important enemy posts on the heights of Khvord-Kabul and Botkhak, killing 10 Taleban personnel. The dead bodies are still scattered on the battlefield.

A commanding position was captured yesterday which puts the areas of Band-e Ghazi, Botkhak, and Gosfand-Dara within range of the Islamic Army's artillery and which can also be used as an observation post on enemy supply routes.

This new victory has accelerated the speed of the Islamic Army's advance toward Band-e Ghazi [30 km south-east of Kabul]. Military operations are continuing in the direction of Band-e Ghazi.

Further on Fighting in Band-e Ghazi

LD2811193795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the government of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani have seized seven positions and slit trenches from the Taleban group during clashes which took place today in the Band-e Ghazi region to the southeast of Kabul.

Announcing this on Tuesday [28 November] afternoon, the Afghan Defense Ministry reported that the government forces were continuing their advances and added that 13 members of the Taleban group had been killed and a number injured during these clashes.

The Afghan government forces are trying to block the passage of the Taleban group in the Band-e Ghazi region and have totally besieged a large number of the opposition forces.

At present Taleban traffic is within the firing range of the government forces and they are unable to move or mobilize their forces during the day.

Mojaddedi Quits Anti-Rabbani Alliance

BK2911072295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 29 (AFP) — A moderate Afghan leader, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, has resigned from the four-party alliance formed two years ago to topple President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government, his spokesman said Wednesday [29 November].

Mojaddedi, who served as president of the Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan (SCCIRA) has decided to step down for "political reasons," the spokesman, Musa Ghazi, told AFP.

He refused to elaborate, pending the return of Mojaddedi who is in Denmark. But Ghazi denied that Mojaddedi's decision came after reports that his alliance colleagues had held secret contacts with the Kabul government.

The SCCIRA, grouping Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of former prime minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, the National Islamic Movement of an ex- communist general Abdol Rashid Dostam and a faction of Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat, led by Abdul Ali Mazari, was formed more than two years ago as an anti-Rabbani alliance.

Newspaper here said Mojaddedi withdrew in protest against reported secret contacts between representatives of Hekmatyar and Rabbani.

They said he also had complaints that SCCIRA's two key components Hezb-e Eslami and the National Islamic Movement had not consulted him while taking some important political and military decisions.

Ghazi denied the media reports as "untrue", saying "we are not concerned about such meetings."

"We are against Rabbani and we will remain against Rabbani" until the embattled Afghan President steps down, Ghazi said.

He said the advisory council of SCCIRA was trying to pursuade Mojaddedi to remain in the alliance. "But I don't think he will change his mind."

Mojaddedi, who served as first president of post-communist Afghanistan in 1992, is respected among Afghan people as a moderate religious leader.

The spokesman said Mojaddedi, who heads his Afghan National Islamic Front would try to unite all other parties against the Rabbani administration in Kabul.

He did not say if SCCIRA would form part of a proposed grand alliance.

India

Minister Rejects U.S. View of Pakistan, 'Terrorism'

BK2911090695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi does not share the view of the Clinton administration that there is no proof of the Pakistan Government's involvement in terrorist activities in India to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. The minister of external affairs, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said during the question hour that, on the contrary, the available evidence, both within India and within the U.S. system, clearly establishes that Islamabad is actively engaged in financing, abetting, training, and arming of militants and infiltration into India, particularly Jammu and Kashmir. He said the U.S. State Department's annual report on the pattern of global terrorism has

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supported New Delhi's position that Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorist activities in India. Mr. Mukherjee said the government is continuing and will continue its efforts to sensitize the United States and other friendly countries on the matter and will impress upon them that there has been no change in Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism in India.

Ties With U.S. Examined After U.S. Pakistan Arms Deal

BK2811170895 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 28 Nov 95 p 8

[Report by V.K. Madhavan Khutty]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] External Affairs Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee reacted promptly, on expected lines, that the American arms to Pakistan will upset the military balance in the subcontinent, India will have to increase its defence budget and the American decision will adversely affect the India-United States and India-Pakistan relations. Very promptly the foreign office conveyed its concern and anguish to the United States Government. The media also did not lag behind. They came out with strong editorial comments warning the government against the United States and Pakistani designs and advising to take counter measures. Such reactions and rituals have been going on for the last 40 years ever since America started arming Pakistan, with little effect on the U.S. Administration — Democratic or Republican. The spokesman of the Congress party reacted by saying it is the way of doing things in America. Whether he was authorised or not, he was expected to comment that the U.S. decision has nothing to do with Prime Minister's visit to New York. Probably he was pre-empting any press criticisms to that effect.

There should be a link between traditional imperialism and the contemporary variety. It is Pakistan plus United States of America, as far as Indo-Pak issues are concerned. The common man in our country knows why the United States is so obsessed in strangulating India economically, unleashing the multinational corporation power on it in the name of globalisation and strengthening Pakistan by arming it.

In the Fifties and later, the United States was seeking to contain India by building up Pakistan, as India under Pandit Nehru refused to be a subordinate partner and wanted to develop into a centre of power. In the changed circumstances of the Eighties and the Nineties, India no longer takes up that stance and has considerably toed the U.S. line on economic and trade policies. It should be noted here that Pranab Mukherjee also spoke of relations between India and the United States which are multi-dimensional and that the approach of both the governments was not to permit differences to prevent cooperation in mutually beneficial areas. But the U.S. is not satisfied and wants to bring India to her knees. It is time to recall what Panditji had told in 1955: "Whatever the future may hold, this is not going to happen."

As we repeat our reactions parrot-like every time, America tilts towards Pakistan, and also repeats that the arms they give to Pakistan is not meant against India. But is America capable of preventing the receiver from using it for whatever purpose it wants? The recipient may not act as the donor desires. The United States was told of this many times by India. Krishna Menon, speaking in the Security Council in 1957, said, "For our act of self-abnegation not to use atomic power for destructive purposes, we are threatened by the other side with attacks from the rear and, for the first time, exercises are taking place with atomic tactical weapons. Not a needle is given by the United States possesses — moral, physical, political, dollar and everything else — it would be impossible for them to control what Pakistan has, any more than a parent can control the use of a pistol or pen-knife by a child. That is the position." They have to be told now that "Weapons of war have no magazines for intentions, their only magazines are for projectile power." Despite American assurances, Pakistan had used these arms against India and continue to do so even now whether it is by helping mohajirs, terrorists, guerrillas or other saboteurs against India. All that apart from the time of Revolutionary War, the U.S. has found ways in order to get obligations which could no longer be applicable, including one time exceptions. Even if India accepts the motives of the United States, not the correctness or otherwise, the facts are that the weight of these arms is a potent quantity in the impeding development of Pakistan itself which is necessary for us.

The United States should understand that India wants issues to be settled with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully. It is to be believed that one section of the state department is for this while the other section has a strong bias towards Pakistan. However, what is to be recalled now is that there is nothing in U.S. policy, now or in the past, which indicates "the abandonment of using Pakistan as original surrogate."

Having said this, former diplomat and foreign policy expert A.K. Damodaran recently observed, "We will have to learn to live with this and also learn to intervene in American domestic process to influence decision making in Washington. Most of all, we will have to refurbish our domestic policies in such a manner as to render less vulnerable to the interferences from our neighbours." Huge hoardings enroute from Indira Gandhi airport to Race Course Road to greet

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Prime Minister on his return from abroad and more commercial type appearance on Doordarshan will not do. Lobbyists appointed by India too have failed. Lobbying alone is the answer. Speaking to be heard is necessary. Where is that voice?

Two countries which are neighbours and not friendly to catch other, like India and Pakistan, are getting arms from the United States. Israel gets more in quantity and more sophisticated ones. To a lesser extent, Egypt also gets arms from Pakistan. India does not want arms aid from anybody and it has been her consistent stand all along. But even if India wants to buy them for her own defence and to meet the threats from her neighbour, America would invoke super law Article 301 regarding intellectual property and advance scientific know-how. The Clinton administration has gone much further than his two immediate predecessors in supporting Brown Amendment and repealing Pressler Amendment. Still, we are supposed to trumpet that Indo-U.S. relations are on the upswing. It is time we told them in one voice that it is an unfriendly act amounting to abetting with those who are inimical to us.

I cannot write anything on the Indo-Pak relations or on Kashmir without referring to V.K. Krishna Menon. For, he was the person who placed Kashmir squarely, legally and constitutionally on the map of India and of course, along with Panditji, India on the map of the world. He is one person who consistently reminded that Pakistan is our enemy. For Krishna Menon, Pakistan was "theocratic and authoritarian; it was created by a dying imperialism and is sustained by another, on the basis of retrogressive and illegitimate principle of nationalism." History has vindicated him.

Leghari: 'Strategic' Development Plan Lacking

BK2311074095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Nov 95 p 12

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the country has no comprehensive strategic plan to identify and develop requisite technologies for the production of marketable goods like the Asian Tiger countries.

He was speaking at the silver jubilee function of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEEP) at a local hotel Wednesday [22 November] afternoon. Punjab governor, Lt-Gen. (Retd), Raja Muhammad Saroop Khan was also present on the occasion.

The president said that the technological history of Pakistan was that of missed opportunities and unavailed chances.

"We missed the chance to develop iron, steel and mining technologies in 1960s, electrical and semiconductor electronic in the 1970s and computer and telecommunications in the 1980s", Leghari regretted.

He said that at present, the nation was half way through 1990s, apparently without a defined methodology and action plan to acquire and develop technology based on manufacturing expertise and industries.

He urged engineers to provide the guidance and strategy to public and private sector so that the most appropriate products and technology could be developed in the country.

Leghari said that the governments in the past had set up numerous institutions like National Institute of Electronics, National Institute of Power and National Institute of Silicon Technology, but these institutes, he regretted, failed to achieve a meaningful objective.

He said that various government agencies and ministries had also failed to remove the impediments necessary for development of technology in the country.

Leghari said that the government was committed to provide the requisite infrastructure and support for the development of technology and downstream industries. But, he added, it was up to the private sector to produce the quality products that could be competitive in the global environment.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that the local companies should develop a high-level of expertise in management and technology so that they could participate productively in national products, either independently or in joint ventures with overseas companies. "The government is fully committed to providing maximum opportunity to local engineering design, consultancy and construction companies to help country fully develop a sustainable capability in these areas", Leghari said.

He said that problems of the manufacturing sector in the country were partly due to inability of the local manufacturing firm to comply with the international quality standards and lack of ISO-9000 registration. "I believe that currently there are only two companies in the electrical engineering manufacturing sector that are ISO-9000 certified", he added.

Leghari said that heavy foreign investment was coming in the country for setting up thermal power plants. The investment may touch the figure of $20 billion in near future, he added.

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Responding to a suggestion presented by the IEEEP chief regarding the cut in the arms purchase to allocate more money on the university education, Leghari said that there would be defense purchases according to the requirement of the country."

"If Pakistan requires 40 aircraft, we will buy 40 aircraft", Leghari said.

However, he assured, the government would definitely allocate more amount for research and developmental works in the universities of the country.

He said that if DASO, the French company manufacturing Mirage fighters, produced the aircraft in Pakistan, it would not be a help to this country, but also the parent country in terms of cheaper labour.

President Farooq Ahmad Leghari also distributed special awards to late Engr. [Engineer] Tanveer Azhar, Dr. M. Y. Akhatar, Ch. A. Hameed, Dr. Irum Ikramullah and Dr. Khawar Zia, who had contributed to the development of the engineering.

Navy Chief Stresses Speedy Production of Submarines

BK2411150695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The naval chief says the Indian Navy is capable of meeting its needs indigenously, but budgetary constraints sometimes affect its operational requirements. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Admiral B.S. Shekhawat said the Navy has the added responsibility of guarding the largest exclusive economic zone.

Adm. Shekhawat expressed concern over the delay in according government approval for indigenous production of submarines. He said if the required funds are made available to the Mazagaon docks, the work could be taken up immediately. He said that the submarine production schedule should be a continuous process, keeping the threat perception in the Indian Ocean region in view.

Iran

Clinton's Europe Visit Said 'Doomed to Failure'

LD2911132495 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA — A morning daily strongly criticized President Clinton's policy and commented that there is no link between his rhetoric and his action. The English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' in its editorial on Wednesday [29 November] wrote that 1996 will be a crucial year for President Bill Clinton who has to go to the nation for his re-entry into the White House."

The paper went on to say, "as a presidential candidate, Clinton severely criticized and scoffed at his predecessor for being preoccupied with international issues and ignoring domestic matters."

"The first Democratic president in 12 years, Clinton has given the impression that there is no link between his rhetoric and his action," the daily emphasized. It added, "Despite his criticism of his predecessors, George Bush and Ronald Reagan, Clinton involved himself in foreign affairs and ignored the domestic issues after his entry into the White House."

"Interestingly, all U.S. presidents, without any exception, have always tried to be world policemen. They achieved some success in the past, particularly because of the cold war. But now times have changed. The economic power of the Pacific region and Europe should make the U.S. realize that a friend and partner is required, not a policeman," the daily pointed out.

"In the Pacific region, U.S. and Japan are at odds. Even the U.S. forces which have been based in Japan since World War II are no longer welcome. Economic rivalry between the two is at its peak," continued the editorial.

The paper also said, "the same is happening in Europe where Britain is no longer a satellite of the United States. Until recently, during the terms of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Reagan, the two countries used to enjoy a so- called 'special relationship'. That period ended and now Prime Minister John Major and Clinton are treading a prickly path."

"In order to draw the attention of 40 million Irish-American voters, Clinton is due to visit London, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic with the hope that the Ulster peace talks will be in progress by then so that he may get Irish votes at home. Will he succeed? Observers are skeptic," the daily pointed out.

It added, "Major has no interest in making a goodwill gesture to Clinton who allowed Gerry Adams, president of the Sinn Fein political wing of the IRA, to enter the U.S. last February."

"Adams, who is termed a 'terrorist' by Britain, was given a warm welcome not only by U.S. officials but also by the U.S. media, which rightly annoyed London. Adams' visit was at the cost of the 'special relationship' which existed between Washington and London during the Reagan and Thatcher era. But a favorable result was not produced and Adams failed to do what at that time Clinton or the U.S. officials expected," continued the paper.

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It also said, "That was not all. Clinton had more trouble in store. His announcement last june of a trade ban against Iran failed and even his closest allies rejected Clinton's demands."

"Former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney was right when he remarked that Clinton is one of the least competent foreign policy leaders of the 20th century," the daily said.

It continued, "In his Monday evening speech Clinton admitted that the U.S. would no longer be able to play the role of policeman in the world, but he declared that in 'some areas it can and it should'

"Clinton did not go into detail, but it might have been better for him to understand that his policy has underlined [as received] American credibility around the world," the paper stressed.

It also said, "his own friends are bombarding him with advice, including replacement for his top aides such as Foreign Secretary Warren Christopher."

"He lacks vision. He is an inexperienced president who just does not know what to do. In the light of these bitter facts, Clinton's European visit is doomed to failure," the editorial concluded.

Turkish Official Pledges No Anti-Iran Activities

LD2911113095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The message of Suleyman Demirel, president of Turkey, was submitted to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mr. Onur Oymen, the Turkish undersecretary of state for foreign affairs, was today received by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and while submitting this message, he stressed that Turkey places a great deal of importance on preserving and strengthening its relations with Iran. He added that relations between the two neighbor countries of Iran and Turkey are not only bilateral, but multilateral.

He then said: Turkey will not permit any group or person to be active against Iran from inside Turkey. He referred to developments in northern Iraq and stressed Turkey's commitment to the need for preserving the territorial integrity of Iraq and safeguarding peace and stability in that country. He said: Turkey calls for exchanges of views and greater cooperation with Iran over bilateral issues and current events in the region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also emphasized the need for preserving the territorial integrity and unity of Iraq. He described as important the role of the two powerful countries of Turkey and Iran in maintaining peace and stability in the region. He also noted that the practical implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries will pave the way for greater future cooperation between them.

Commentary on Israeli Attacks on Southern Lebanon

NC2911083995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The aggressive Zionist army continues the shelling of villages and towns in southern Lebanon. This aggression culminated yesterday.

The mischief and inhuman acts by the occupiers are taking place at a time when the Tel Aviv rulers are trying to portray a peace- loving face in international forums. At a recent conference of Mediterranean countries in Barcelona, the Zionist regime's foreign minister adopted a peace-seeking air and called on the Syrian foreign minister to join the Middle East compromise process. But in tandem with such calls, the occupying Zionist regime's fighters and artillery destroy the homes of the people in southern Lebanon and roll men and women, young and old in blood.

Although the Lebanese Government has always protests against such aggressions and has called on international forums to help, the protective policies of the ruling powers in the United Nations and in the Security Council for the Zionist regime have not allowed any preventive measures to be taken against these daily crimes. Whenever Islamic Resistance combatants carry out an operation against the occupying forces in southern Lebanon, the Western governments headed by the United States react and—by describing such operations, which are fully legitimate from the point of view of international laws, as acts of terrorism—they call on the two sides to refrain from so-called violence. But when Zionist bombs and bullets are directly aimed at civilians in southern Lebanon, there is no sign of such so-called humanitarian feelings of the Western governments.

At any rate, it does not seem that Israel's policy of double standards which, on one hand, tries to portray itself as a peace advocator and, on the other, carries out criminal acts in the occupied territories in southern Lebanon will be able to affect the determination of the Muslim combatants of Lebanon's resistance. The revolutionary Lebanese Hizballah movement issued a statement yesterday saying that it will not let the attacks by the aggressive Zionist army on southern Lebanon to go unanswered; and this is at a time when most analysts

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can no longer deny the fact that the Zionist occupiers must be answered in the only language they understand.

Bosnian Official Thanks Velayati for Assistance

LD2811133195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, the chief of joint staff of the army of Bosnia-Herzegovina voiced gratitude for the unstinting assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the wronged and suffering people of Bosnia. He also spoke about the latest developments relating to Bosnia and described the Dayton accord in connection with that country as unjust and called for the continuing assistance of Islamic countries to the people of Bosnia.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, voiced the hope that the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina would be resolved and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran would continue its assistance to the people of that country.

Velayati Discusses Bosnian Aid, Departs for Region

LD2811204295 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 28 (IRNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon held separate talks here with the first deputy foreign ministers of Jordan and Malaysia, who are in Tehran for the two-day session of the Islamic Countries' Aid Mobilization Group for Bosnia.

Jordan's Ibrahim Neghavi told Velayati that the regional role of Iran is "very great and important which none can ignore."

He stressed that his country attaches great importance to promotion of ties between Tehran and Amman.

The Jordanian official referred to the new developments in the Balkans and announced his country's readiness for dispatching more aid to the Bosnian Republic.

Later in the day, Velayati and Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Kamil Ja'far [title as received] reviewed the new developments in the Balkans.

Calling the accord imposed by America in Dayton, Ohio, last week as "unjust," Velayati and Kamil discussed ways for stepped up support and assistance to Bosnia as well as helping the Organization of [the] Islamic Conference (OIC) to be more active. Velayati said Iran has decided to send a delegation to Bosnia soon to review projects for reconstructing roads, schools, clinics, water supply networks, and other express needs of the war-ravaged Bosnian people.

The two sides also expressed their pleasure over the expanding and friendly relations between Tehran and Kuala Lumpur.

Tonight Velayati left at the head of a high-ranking delegation for Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to hold talks with the officials of the two countries on the latest developments in the Balkans.

Construction Cooperation Talks Held With Russia

LD2811104295 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov. 28, IRNA — The consolidation of Irano-Russian cooperation in manufacturing and trading construction materials were discussed and reviewed in a meeting here Monday [27 November] between Iranian Deputy Minister of Industry Hoseyn Naji and Russian Deputy Minister for Construction Aleksey Fomenkin. Naji announced Iran's willingness to purchase construction materials including fire-proof bricks.

Both sides agreed that to promote the marketing of construction materials, a pavilion would be set up by Iran's bank of industry and mines at Russia's permanent exhibition for construction materials.

In a separate meeting, Naji and the head of Russia's chemicals committee, Viktor Ivanov, discussed the implementatin of joint ventures for producing commodities that could compete with western goods.

It was decided at this meeting that representatives from Iran's ministry of industry and Russia's petrochemicals committee continue exchanging information.

Rafsanjani Addresses Meeting on Combating Drugs

LD2311175195 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA — President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressing the meeting of the headquarters of the campaign against narcotic trafficking here Thursday [23 November], stressed the resolute measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in combating drug smuggling and addicts.

The president underlined the growing cooperation of the people in the transmission of information to the officials as the factor which has contributed to the successful campaign against drug trafficking. The president pointed out the necessity for greater harmony and coordination among the different agencies in the efficient use of people's reports on drug abuse.

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During the session the Information Ministry, Law Enforcement Organization, Prosecutor General's office and secretariat of the headquarter for Campaign Against Contraband presented reports of their intensifying activities against addicts and drug trafficking.

The session also evaluated the vast measures taken to block the border entry routes used by smugglers in eastern part of the country to traffic the drug into the country.

A report was presented at the session on the discovery of over 115 tons of various types of drugs during the current year and various types of activities on the campaign.

During the session, decision was made to send delegations to different provinces for coordination among relevant organizations and for stepping up combat against traffickers.

Rafsanjani Inaugurates Development Projects

LD2811122595 Tehran IRNA in English
0944 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA — Seven development projects that cost some rls. 22 billion were put into operation here Tuesday [28 November] morning in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani. An official from the Tehran municipality announced that the commissioning of these projects, which include five major bridges over six highways in northwestern Tehran will have great impact on connecting intercity roads. Addressing engineers, experts and municipality officials, the president appreciated the valuable efforts made in improving the city of Tehran.

He said the annual allocation of some rls. 800 billion for construction activiites in the city is an indication of the vast projects that are underway. President Rafsanjani reiterated that the efforts of Iranian engineers and experts have led to a great change in the attitudes of foreigners towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Nateq-Nuri on Parties, Combatant Clergy, Rushdie

LD2811101095 Tehran IRNA in English
0749 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — A top Iranian lawmaker said the Islamic Republic 'must surely' have 'political parties and organizations', but added that these are not the only means to 'enhance public awareness'. Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, in an interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS printed on Tuesday [28 November], expressed his opinion on domestic and foreign issues including the establishment of political parties. He said that 'cultural propaganda' should be used simultaneously with political parties which should have broad and macro plans and reflect national perspectives in their election manifestos.

According to the daily, Nateq-Nuri, an active member of the Jame- ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM) (Society of Combatant Ulema), said the JRM is not a political party as "the clergy have a guiding role in society which should not be limited to a single party." He remarked the JRM would have no objections if its members joined another political party, recalling that during the previous Majles elections, a scenario such as this had happened. The speaker said that the jrm would uphold its previous election platform which includes development, social justice, public participation and supervision.

Contrary to popular belief, he has denied his candidacy in the next presidential elections, saying that, "it depends on the JRM central council. If JRM puts that responsibility on my shoulders, naturally I will accept..."

Nateq-Nuri underscored the importance of Tehran's relations with non-European states and noted that the Zionist-controlled media is responsible for 'misunderstandings' between Iran and Europe. He also said Iran should strengthen its relations with Asian countries.

On the apostate Salman Rushdie, the speaker reiterated the policy that the Islamic Republic will never send "commandos to kill Rushdie." He said that the fatwa issued by the late imam was not a new issue. "Our government officials have explained this matter fully. We have not retreated from our former position with regard to the fatwa and have said that the verdict cannot be revoked.

"If some believe that the government is duty bound to carry out the fatwa, they are mistaaken," said the Majles speaker. "If such was the case, when the imam was alive he would have ordered the government to carry out the execution. We all know that no such order was issued by the imam to the government which would have obeyed the late leader's every wish."

Velayati on ECO Trade Tariff, Aid to Afghanistan

LD2711184895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The trade tariff will be reduced between the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO.

Announcing the above point in an interview with our correspondent on the occasion of ECO Day, 28

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November, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated that the reduction was taking place to facilitate the expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the ECO member states.

He pointed out that trade tariff between the ECO member states is currently being implemented with a 10 percent reduction, and added that the ECO member states do not consider this level to be sufficient. They believe that obstacles that exist on the path of economic cooperation between the ECO member states will be removed by a further reduction in the trade tariff.

Velayati said the top priorities of ECO's future programs are to expand ground and remote communication links.

Velayati said it is necessary to help with Afghanistan's economic reconstruction, a member of the ECO. He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a member of the ECO and a Muslim country, is making serious efforts to help with Afghanistan's reconstruction and revival of its economy parallel with resolving that country's internal conflicts.

The minister of foreign affairs added that Iran has so far established several hospitals and health clinics in Afghanistan, as well as sending economic aid to that country. The Construction Jihad is expected to repair and open an airport in Hazarajat, central Afghanistan, so that aircraft carrying international aid will be able to land.

Mirzadeh Comments on Next Year's Budget Bill

LD2711203095 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA — Head of the Planning and Budget Organization, Hamid Mirzadeh said the government's foreign exchange income from crude oil exports and oil derivatives, has been predicted at dlrs. 15.990 billion in the next year's budget bill, showing an 18.2 percent increase as compared to that of the current year.

Talking to reporters, Mirzadeh said the main indices in drawing up the budget for the fiscal year 1375 (1996-96) is based on stabilization of the rate of export-related foreign exchange, giving opportunity to the government to introduce a rate equivalent to or less than the present rate of rls. [rials] 3000 per U.S. dollar.

Mirzadeh said foreign exchange stability in one of the leverages contributing to the control of inflation, which is expected to slow down next year.

He further said that to provide financial guarantees for projects which are to be implemented on buyback basis, the Oil Ministry, in addition to the dlrs 1.1 bn, as was authorized this year, is allowed to make use of 80 percent of the income from increase of oil exports surpassing the dlr. 608 million ceiling.

Mirzadeh estimated the export value of professional services provided by Iran is expected to earn dlrs. 200 million this year compared to dlrs. 150 million this year.

The head of the Planning and Budget Organization added that by the end of the first half of the next calendar year, the construction of 20 reservoir dams will be complete, providing 3.5 billion cubic meters of water for agricultural development.

Mirzadeh said that the second phase of the Tabriz petrochemical project will go on stream this year. The production capacity of the Tabriz plant is 80,000 tons of polymer, polystyrene and polyethylene that are used in the manufacture of water and gas pipes, will go on streamline. After meeting the domestic demands the surplus will be exported, he added.

He said the country will be self-sufficient in terms of oil products once the Bandar-e 'Abbas oil refinery, with a capacity of 132 thousand barrels per day, is put on stream.

According to Mirzadeh, the new budget bill is in line with the country's economic policy to achieve the goals set by the second five year plan (1995-2000), and can bring down inflation because of the absence of deficit.

Oil Official Details Development of 'By-Products'

LD2511174195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the past eight months, the production of oil by-products has increased seven percent, and the capacity for storing paraffin, fuel oil, and gas oil has increased 10 percent. Announcing this information, the managing director of the national company for the distribution of oil by-products said: Although the consumption of oil by-products decreased this year when compared to last year, during the months Azar to Esfand [22 November 1995 to 19 March 1996] the company will be able to distribute a daily average of 31 million liters of gasoline, 41 million liters of paraffin, 41 million liters of fuel oil, and 65 million liters of gas oil throughout the country.

He stressed the importance of continuing the programs for conserving and improving the use of energy. He said: With an increase of 500 million liters in the storage capacity for paraffin and gas oil at refineries, ports, and in the country's colder regions, the expectation is that these regions will have easier access to energy products.

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He added: In order to resolve the problem of supplying fuel to new suburbs and regions having a shortage of oil product storage places, the national company for the distribution of oil by-products will provide the required energy products in these areas by using fuel tankers. The company is willing to examine applications from the private sector to construct fuel-supply facilities in these regions.

The company's managing director agreed there had been a shortage of liquid gas in some provinces during recent weeks, and expressed the hope that, with the completion of a project for merging the liquid gas company and the company for the distribution of oil by-products, and the completion of repairs to the Tehran refinery, liquid gas supplies will increase within the next few days.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Scientific Training Meeting

LD2711182995 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri stressed on Monday [27 November] that a country's independence finds expression in light of greater heed to and strengthening of committed and specialized forces.

Addressing the closing ceremonies of a gathering on scientific- applied improvement of public general training, he said the officials should provide greater grounds for flowering of talents.

The speaker told hundreds of foreign and domestic experts and scientists participating in the gathering that Islamic Iran is like a ring studded with numerous precious stones which should be taken advantage of with skillful and concerted planning.

He described planning and developing a quality training system as essential for development of the country.

Nateq-Nuri urged officials to give greater regard to training and absorbing efficient researchers and managers in order to elevate the level of technical expertise.

Millions of Items of Contraband Goods Seized

LD2711123595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the end of the ninth stage of the nationwide Fajr exercises by the Law Enforcement Forces [LEF], more than five million items of a variety of contraband goods have been discovered. Announcing this at a news conference this morning, Brigadier-General [Reza] Seyfollahi, commander of the LEF, said: During these exercises LEF personnel discovered millions of items of [contraband] goods, seized more than 80 boats which were used for transporting contraband goods, inspected over 2,800 vessels, and confiscated 548 vehicles carrying contraband goods.

Brig-Gen Seyfollahi estimated the value of the contraband goods at nearly 30 billion rials, adding: With the addition of this figure, the value in rials of the contraband goods uncovered during the past seven months exceeds 150 billion rials.

Naval Exercise Held in Caspian Sea

LD2811151795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the occasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy Day, the Coastal Resistance naval exercise was carried out in the waters of the Caspian Sea off the port of Anzali. Let me draw your attention to a report in this regard:

[Correspondent] In this naval exercise, which was carried out with the cooperation of personnel from the north's naval expertise training center, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Basij forces, customs offices, the fisheries organization, and the port and shipping [department] of the port of Anzali, two combat-scuba diving battalions and more than 90 training and defense frigates and speedboats took part. While capturing the hypothetical positions of the enemy and achieving the predetermined goals, the participating forces displayed their defense capabilities. [passage omitted]

SAFF Interview With Commander Baqa'i

96LA0029A Tehran SAFF in Persian Sep-Oct 95 pp 9-11

[Report on interview with Air Force Commander General Baqa'i by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Note—This is not necessarily everything we can and must say with regard to the Air Force.

The commander of the Air Force has promised to tell us new things about the fundamental changes and innovations in this force in the years of the revolution, the war, and afterward. In our first interview with General Baqa'i, commander of the Air Force, he himself had a new air about him. To put the matter generally and briefly, he is the image of the Air Force situation in the eventful years of the war and the performance of the Islamic homeland's defenders of the skies. We will seek to convey this in this report.

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It is completely evident that this late summer afternoon comes at the end of a very busy day. The fact that our permission to meet with him was delayed by several days is an indication of this. Despite all his work complications and responsibilities, we meet with General Baqa'i in his office at the Air Force Staff. He asked us why we wanted to interview him, and we answered the questions. When he rose from behind his desk and sat beside us, at first glance we saw that he is nothing less than the equal of his comrades in arms, Baba'i and Ardestani.

He is over 44 years old. Before he became commander of the Air Force, we had heard descriptions of him from his colleagues, comrades in arms, and the personnel under him. He has given top priority as an unswerving principle to providing serious and comprehensive support to those who went through the eight years of the sacred defense and passed the test. He believes that more important than equipment is procuring manpower and giving top priority to the exalted character of human beings. Therefore, from the very beginning he gave importance to accepting responsibility for this important matter.

Before we came to the principle of the matter and the subject of the interview, we discussed with the commander two requests and proposals by the dear former prisoner pilots, given to us while gathering information and writing the book *Eagles in Captivity*, and the general willingly accepted these.

We had previously negotiated with the chief of General Baqa'i's office about the length of time allowed for the interview and were satisfied. We asked our first question, and we expect that you are also waiting for it.

[SAFF] General, on the threshold of Sacred Defense Week as commander of the Air Force of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, how do you evaluate the role of this force in the eight years of the sacred defense in supporting the ground forces?

There is a moment of silence, and the commander of the Air Force then begins his analysis as follows:

[Baqa'i] With praise, greetings, and prayers to his holiness the vice regent of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent), with greetings and endless praise to the good souls of the martyrs and the celestial and immortal soul of our late Imam, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with greetings and heartfelt concern to the exalted leader and commander in chief of all the forces:

Because of the special makeup and position that the Air Force of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran gained during the triumph of the splendid Islamic revolution, it has a special image and place with the people. The Air Force must repay what it has gained in the shadow of its unity and solidarity with the public. Therefore, the Air Force began its missions with the triumph of the revolution, and with this very beginning, these days of the revolution in the unrest at Gonbad, Kordestan, and the domestic conflicts, it began protecting and guarding the gains of the revolution before the beginning of the imposed war.

Two hours had not even passed after the imposed war was begun in the aggressive attack by Saddam's mercenaries on the Air Force bases when two important Iraqi bases in Baghdad and the Basrah area were hit by the swift eagles of the Air Force. It will be remembered that in that period I was serving as a combat operations officer at Base 2 in Tabriz.

I was speaking with one of my colleagues, the pilot Colonel Sa'idi. In view of the reports and information we had received, we realized that Iraq was engaging in border provocations, had stationed several of its armies there, and was spreading its forces along the border. We were talking about these things. As soldiers, it was routine for us to contemplate the likelihood of war. Then we heard the roar of aircraft, and suddenly there were two enemy aircraft visible in the distance. They released their bombs between two runways, and praise God, they did not do that much damage to the base. The war thus officially began.

We immediately went to the war room and began making flight plans and establishing targets. After our mission was announced by the commander at the time, Pilot Brigadier General Martyr Fakuri, immediately, at dawn the next day, 140 aircraft were dispatched to attack the soil of the Ba'thist enemy in the first appropriate and tooth-gnashing answer to the dastardly attacks by the Ba'thist mercenaries.

At that time the Second Combat Base, because of its special position, launched several heavy and lightning attacks daily against the enemy's bases, including Mowsul, Karkuk, and Iraq's economic and military targets. These attacks went on for four months and destroyed a large part of the enemy's operational capability at these bases. This gave the ground forces a chance to establish the necessary coordination. I remember that while returning from one of these very missions, several enemy aircraft followed us. One of the enemy aircraft was hit by an air missile and crashed at the edge of the airport. Then the rest of the enemy aircraft fled in fear.

On that day there was a furor prevailing in all the Air Force bases. The pilots seemed to be competing with one another to go on volunteer missions; the technical, supply, flight, and air defense personnel were falling all

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over themselves; and everyone was passionately doing his duty.

In the first days of the war, the Air Force, because of the lack of coordination of the ground forces due to the triumph of the revolution, was the only force that was prepared and organized to fight in all areas. In order to be able to stop the enemy advance until sufficient forces could reach the defensive line, the Air Force fought the tanks until the infantry could regain its coordination and organization and establish itself at the defense lines.

The war was imposed on us under circumstances when no preparations had been made beforehand. Much of our equipment and materiel had not been unpacked. Our radar equipment was in disuse because the foreign consultants had left. Under such circumstances, the Air Force personnel rolled up their sleeves, formed work groups and began the task of preparing, improving and rebuilding parts. Despite the economic and arms embargoes, the Air Force never gave up on support, repair and maintenance. With ability that continued to increase after the first days of the war, it set out to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With all of its filthy manifestations, the war brought good blessings for us, and today, with the manufacture of thousands of parts and devices, long and positive steps have been taken down the road to self-sufficiency. In the not too distant future you will see striking successes in this area.

[SAFF] In every country the air force, because of its special technological characteristics, is considered one of the most complex forces in the defense sector. What are your plans for maintaining military capability?

[Baqa'i] Praise God, our Air Force, because of the numerous pressures, the economic embargo, and the imposed war, has high military experience and ability. From the very beginning, when I accepted command responsibility, I conducted well planned studies on the potential resources and abilities that exist in the Air Force. We believe that when we attain advanced air technology we will be able to increase the nation's defense ability and put it into the service of industry, economic growth and national development.

Using the resources and equipment and specialist and skilled manpower are among the plans made in the best way for research, the self-sufficiency crusade, innovation and creativity, and the research and academic centers at the "air university." Preparations have been done for work, and the belief is that if the research centers throughout the country are brought together and begin working as an aeronautics research center, with the support of the country's top officials, it will not be long before we achieve what we envision and expect.

With respect to preserving military capability, I can say with confidence that our Air Force has very high defensive capability in the region. Among the nations of the region we do not see any nation that rivals Iran's power. At the same time, I must note that our high military power and ability must not be a cause for alarm among our neighbors. We are not an adventuring nation, nor do we have adventurous intentions. Our military power is necessary for defending our nation's independence. We want to use this power to defend our independence and to defend our borders, and the world saw that we were right during the sacred defense.

[SAFF] General, please tell us what programs you are implementing to raise military and ideological awareness and knowledge among the personnel and their families.

[Baqa'i] I must state that in my view Islamic management entails dispensing awareness and making individuals aware of the essence of their being. When human beings become aware, their spiritual soul prevails over them, and they view worldly diversions with contempt, counting them only as a means for achieving the higher goals of life.

In the Air Force, we are striving to make spirituality prevail and to make our children familiar with the light of the Koran. Currently, compared to other organizations and positions, in matters pertaining to knowledge of Islam and the Koran, the children of the personnel of the Air Force have been able to make striking progress. We consider this progress to be due to the efforts of the exalted clergy in the Political-Ideological Directorate, and we thank and praise them.

[SAFF] General, the Air Force self-sufficiency crusade was the vanguard of the nation's self-sufficiency programs. Recently we have seen the innovators in this force refueling MIG-29s. What programs are you carrying out to achieve the goals of self-sufficiency?

[Baqa'i] The Air Force self-sufficiency crusade arose from the heart of the revolution. Since the beginning of the revolution, more than 300 research tasks have been submitted by these dear ones. Currently the self-sufficiency crusade is carrying out many projects. We need the support of the nation's top officials to carry out these projects. At the mass production stage we are faced with financial problems. We need enormous amounts of credits. God willing, if the financial problems of the self-sufficiency crusade are solved, in the future we will see fruition in these dear ones' programs and projects.

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[SAFF] After the completion of the imposed war, many of the nation's centers and organizations are engaged in post-war reconstruction, and the nation's reconstruction is proceeding rapidly. Please discuss the role of the Air Force in this work.

[Baqa'i] There are potential resources in the Air Force, and they can be activated with the proper planning. These resources include the use of heavy aircraft. With the careful planning that has been done, in addition to preserving the operational and combat capability of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and performing the assigned responsibilities, we can increase our operational capability several fold, and we can put the noble personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the service of the sacred Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the armed forces and the people of our nation.

Utilizing engineering resources and taking part in the nation's reconstruction: Since the mission of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to guard the nation's independence and territorial integrity, in peacetime also it can employ its personnel and equipment, to the extent that this does no harm to the Air Force's combat readiness, in the service of the public and the nation's reconstruction. Therefore, in view of the experience of the eight years of the sacred defense, these abilities should be used on projects we are carrying out such as consulting and contracting at the Qeshm International Airport (including the air strip and the construction of the needed buildings), the creation of the Esfahan belt line roads, non-organizational housing developments on the outskirts of Tehran, and other things which have been created through planning, and the earnings should be spent for the welfare of the personnel.

Making use of the capability of the 600-bed Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force Hospital and developing its medical resources and treatment services in the service of the armed forces and our country's heroic nation is also considered to be another part of these activities. In any case, we are certain that participation by the personnel of the Air Force in the reconstruction and economic areas can move this force toward true self-sufficiency.

[SAFF] The problem of non-organizational housing is now one of the nation's most complicated and intricate difficulties. What measures are you taking to solve the problem of personnel housing in the Air Force?

[Baqa'i] Since Air Force personnel are spread out all over the country in air bases, radar sites, and other places to perform the duties assigned to them, we have therefore met numerous times with the respected minister of housing and urban development. We believe that where urban development takes place due to population growth, a portion of the development will be given to the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We will prepare these lands, and God willing, land will be transferred in exchange for our share of the money. We have done statistical studies of this activity throughout the country, and it has become clear that in long-term planning, housing will be given to personnel, at least to those with more than 20 years of service.

[SAFF] General, have you read SAFF magazine?

[Baqa'i] Yes! I do read SAFF. Fortunately, SAFF has found its way and is well organized.

Among the positive points of SAFF magazine is its full utilization of the exalted leader's guidance. Every month it pays special attention to it. The printing of political, military, and ideological articles also increases the magazine's quality and is quite important. At the same time, an effort is made to pay greater attention to the memories of combatants, wounded veterans and former prisoners of war, because these memories can play an important role in passing on the experiences of those dear ones to future generations.

General Shahbaz Details Army Activities

96LA0047C Tehran SAFF in Persian Sep-Oct 95 p 50

[Report on interview with General Shahbaz, joint chief of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified IRNA correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Description of Army's Activities**

General Shahbaz, joint chief of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, explained the efforts and activities of the Military of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of Government Week.

In an exclusive interview with the correspondent of IRNA, he said: The Military of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to carrying out its military duties and assignments, has been able in the past year to participate in the development of the country along with other ministries.

The joint chief of staff of the Islamic Republic referred to the development of the educational and research sectors in the military and said: Among the important actions of the Armed Forces in the area of education are the start of the operation of all the educational courses needed by the military in the country, such as piloting, aeronautic engineering, ship building, computers, development of industries, mechanics, and other needed fields; admittance of high-ranking managers of the country into the Strategic Sciences University; and training

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the medical and paramedical cadre by the Military Medical Sciences University.

The joint chief of staff announced: In the military, also in the area of research, 30 projects, such as equipping one kind of fighter plane with special missiles; modernizing one type of armored personnel carrier; and the design, installation, and operation of certain needed systems in the area of computers have been carried out.

He added: Also, this year, 90 research projects, including the design and manufacture of Chieftain tanks, making the Cobra training helicopters operational, the manufacture of long-range air-to-ground missiles, the design and manufacture of the control and heating system one type of missile, the development of electronic war systems, and the installation of standard missiles on missile launching crafts are underway.

The joint chief of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in regards to the activities of the armed forces in the past year in the area of the implementation of developmental projects: Projects such as repairing the Kamaku-Naftshahr and Naftshahr-Sumar roads, reconstruction of the Eslamabad Sugar Factory, water outreach and building of a sewage system in the Mahdiyyeh region of Qom, natural gas outreach in the city of Sarab, construction of buildings in Rudbar, road building in Kerman, and building of flood dam on the Halil River of Jiroft are among the actions carried out. The water outreach project in a section of Chabahar, the building of irrigation canals in Esfahan, the preparation of a residential township in Zahedan, participation in the Stone Mine project in Zahedan, providing natural gas outreach to Bostanabad of Tabriz, construction of the Khorramabad loop road, participation in the construction of the Qeshm International Airport, and participation in the construction of the Medical Sciences University are among the current actions of the Military of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the civilian sector.

Swearing-In Ceremonies of Students of the 01 Training Center

The 39th swearing-in ceremonies and shoulder-stripe celebrations for draftee students with medical, masters, bachelors, and associate degrees of the 01 Training Center of the Tehran Cadre were held. In these ceremonies, which were carried out in the presence of the acting ground forces and a group of other commanders and officials of the center, General 'Ebadat praised the combatants of Islam for their self-sacrifice during the eight years of sacred defense and regarded the development and prosperity of the Islamic nation to be dependent on the combat and defense readiness of the personnel.

In the continuation of these ceremonies, the commander of the center presented a report on the educational, combat, and ideological activities of this center. In conclusion, after prizes were granted to the superior students and their stripes were presented by the acting commander of ground forces, the armed units of students marched in front of the Koran and the blessed portraits of Imam Khomeyni and the grand leader and commander in chief of the armed forces.

An Evening With the Koran, Ceremonies by the Ground Forces of the Military of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Blessed Entrance of Emamzadeh Hashem

The students of the Ground Forces Officers University, who were going through training courses in the mountain camp located in Emamzadeh Hashem on Hezar Road, held ceremonies for an evening with the Koran at the blessed entrance of Emamzadeh Hashem.

These ceremonies were held in the presence of General Ahmad Dadbin (the commander of the ground forces) and a group of ideological and political deputies, commanders, and clerics.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif: Bhutto Acting as 'Agent of USA'

BK2411090095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Nov 95 pp 1, 3

[Report by Robina Fariq]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ABBOTTABAD — Leader of the Opposition Mian Nawaz Sharif said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is responsible for ruining every institution of the country and creating hurdles in smooth running of parliamentary system.

He said that Prime Minister has no interest in law making as she visited the Assembly twice only and was trying to get issued ordinances instead of proper legislation. He alleged that over 200 ordinances were approved by the government of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] which is a solid proof of govt's [government] failure.

While addressing programme "Focus" of Abbottabad Union of Journalists here the former Prime Minister made serious charges of corruption and malpractices against Benazir Bhutto, her husband and her party ministers. He said that the entire lot of ministers and advisors belonging to PPP were busy in looting the national wealth due to which, he claimed, the national economy reached at the brink collapse.

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He was of the view that only ouster of Benazir govt could ensure the security of Pakistan. He said that on one hand the poor people of the country were facing hardship to earn bread and butter honourably for their family while on the other hand Zardari and other people at the helm of affairs were busy in minting money at the cost of the poor. "Benazir has become security risk for the country and her early removal from power is essential", he opined.

Criticising the govt attitude towards ulema, Nawaz Sharif said that govt had invited the wrath of Allah Al-mighty and the ulema by attempting raid on Islamic University. He said that Benazir was trying to convert Pakistan into a socialist state. He warned that the Islam loving people of the country would not let her to fulfill her nefarious design.

The leader of the Opposition said that she was acting as an agent of USA in the country and trying to convert the people as slaves of colonial masters.

Responding to a question, Nawaz Sharif said that by arresting Shahbaz Sharif govt was trying to force him to stop his "Jehad" against the corrupt rulers. He said that the govt would get nothing from victimisation tactics.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Gohar Ayub Khan, MNAs [Member of National Assembly] Sardar Mehtab Ahmed Khan, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, MPAs Sardar Ghulam Nabi, Ayub Afridi, former MNA Haji Javid Iqbal Abbasi, General Secretary PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz], NWFP [North West Frontier Province], Sirinjam Khan and other leaders of PML(N) were also present on the occasion.

President bound to enter witness box

PPI in Islamabad adds: Leader of the Opposition Mian Nawaz Sharif has said it is an obligation of President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari to enter the witness box of the court as he has chosen to file a defamation suit against him.

This was stated by him in his written reply to the President's request for appearing in person before the court, submitted in the court of senior civil judge Islamabad Syed Akhlaq Ahmad on Thursday [23 November], during the hearing of defamation suit filed by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari against Nawaz Sharif with damages of Rs 4 billion.

He said as a litigant, it is the obligation of the President to appear in the court and enter the witness box in accordance with the dictates of law.

The reply was submitted in the court by the Leader of the Opposition through his counsel Muhammad Akram Sheikh. The reply said that the order of the court for setting up of a local commission for recording the statement of the President at the presidency was procured either without instructions from the President or on second thought the plaintiff had realised that he will make him a laughing stock before the whole world, by doing so, besides the same being illegal.

Nawaz Sharif said it is neither a gesture of kindness nor grace for the plaintiff to say that he is happy to appear in the court and enter the witness box. "It is a dictate of law which the plaintiff, as the President of Pakistan should have respected", he remarked.

He said in fact it is regrettable that the President got an order from the court himself and then has offered to appear before it, as if he is doing a favour. The defendant said that during the cross- examination the plaintiff (President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari) is to be confronted with some record, which is to be requisitioned through the court.

Muhammad Akram Sheikh advocate asked the court to fix next date of hearing after sufficient interlude to enable the defendant to summon the record. He suggested that the hearing should be held immediately after winter vacations.

He said the deference to the office of the president will be kept in view but he added that the demands of justice are also to be met.

He said at least two or three working days should be given for the cross-examination of the plaintiff.

The Senior Civil Judge Islamabad Syed Akhlaq Ahmad fixed November 30 as the next date of hearing. The court will fix a final date for recording the statement of the President on the day. He directed the counsel for defendant Muhammad Akram Sheikh and Counsel for the plaintiff Raja Muhammad Anwar to appear in the court on the date.

The Senior Civil Judge expressed his inability to make arrangement for a larger courtroom, when the President comes to record his statement. The request was made by Muhammad Akram Sheikh, who pointed out that it is a normal practice to move to a spacious courtroom during the hearing of any important case.

Religious Leader: U.S. Behind Officers' Arrest

BK2811132395 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 28 Nov 95 pp 8, 6

[Report by "special correspondent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] America's CIA provided the Benazir government with a list of Islamist officers in the Pakistan Army four months ago. The arrest of the

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Pakistan Army officers is part of an U.S. conspiracy. The government should explain why members of the Indian Army distributed sweets to their colleagues on hearing the news about the arrest of these officers. Had the Indian Government not declared some of the arrested officers persona non grata? These views were expressed by Sahibzada Fazal Karim the senior vice president of Jamiat-ul-Ulemai Pakistan (Niazi group) in an exclusive talk with KHABRAIN. Responding to a question about Milli Yakjehati Concil's campaign against the government, he said that, leaving aside its political motives, the campaign is the need of the hour, since the government is destroying everything, including the economy, through lawlessness and immorality. In fact, so much is this the case, that an institution like the Army, which has always served the country, is being defamed. I believe that the government has given contradictory statements regarding the recent arrests of military officers. At the time of their arrest, the law minister said that they were collecting arms for the Kashmir jihad. The next day the interior minister said the government had come to the conclusion that these officers were disgruntled about their promotions. And then, suddenly, they were blamed for Islamic revolution. Their arrest is an attempt to distort the Islamic character of the Army. Faith and jihad in the name of God are the two basic principles of the military. By disregarding these basic goals, the government is following the West's anti-Islamic policy. I can say with full confidence that the arrests of the officers is a part of the same American conspiracy under which the CIA provided a list of Islamist officers in the Pakistan Army. Hasn't the government leased out Karachi's gateway 22 and 23 to the United States. Isn't there a restriction on the free movement of the Pakistan Navy's ships to ports from Hawks Bay to Gawadar? Last month two cargo ships sought permission to dock and load cargo but were refused. Therefore, we believe that the present government is destroying the geographic contours of the country. In such a situation, whichever political party launches a movement against the government will be performing a national duty. We are the allies of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz). We are also a part of the Milli Yakjehati Council, but we will not let this council become a political body as some of its members wish to do. If such an attempt is ever made, that will be the last day of the council. Those people will be responsible for the disintegration of the council if they wish to achieve their political goals through it.

'Sell-Out' of Security Interests to U.S. Viewed

BK2411091495 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 24 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Leasing Out the Nation to the Americans"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a reliable report published exclusively in the daily Al-Akhbar yesterday, the government has decided to lease out four berths owned by the Karachi Port Trust to a US-based shipping firm APL [American President Lines]. The total number of berths at the Trust's disposal is 28. On the surface, it looks a pretty ordinary affair but unfortunately it is not so. Serious irregularities have been committed in this transaction. As well as that, it is likely to do grave damage to the country's commercial and strategic interests. First of all, no tenders were invited and no other bidders allowed to compete. The hush-hush manner of the lease gives it a look of conspiracy as well as a cover-up. Also, the lease has been awarded at a nominal price, far less than the authorities would have obtained through open invitation, resulting in a loss of crores of rupees to the exchequer. It should also be mentioned that during Nawaz regime the same firm applied for the use of two berths at a much higher price than given presently for four berths. At that time, in the larger national interests, the Nawaz administration turned down the application. However, the firm applied against for the lease of four berths to the Benazir government in 1993. This time round, the Ministry of Communication, which is headed by the Prime Minister herself, approved the American application without any objection and the Karachi Port Trust was directed to hand over berth numbers 24 to 28, after the completion of necessary formalities, to the applicant. It has been learnt that Pakistan Naval dockyard is situated opposite to the four berths. The naval yard is a sensitive installation from the strategic point of view and the Naval Commander of Karachi has been severely critical of the deal regarding it as a threat to the security and naval defence of the country. These objections were overruled by the Ministry. It has also been pointed out that if the APL, the favoured American firm, began the repair of damaged ship at these births, it will hamper the movement of Pakistan Navy's warships. Similarly, if these berths are not available to merchant ships, they will be obliged to anchor in the open sea which will cause heavy losses to the country's commercial interests. Already, there is an acute shortage of berth space for the commercial ships. The deal would oblige our merchandise to wait in the open for weeks or to rely on APL, which has the dubious distinction of changing the highest rates, for transporting their goods.

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The details of this scandalous lease will cause shock and dismay to the citizens of the country. They had known all along that Washington has a say in shaping our policies, but they did not believe that the ruling party would go this far in their desire to please the US. If the details given in this story are true, then the deal amounts to selling the country to outsiders. An administration which allows foreign presence so close to a sensitive strategic point in spite of the objections of Naval Forces does not represent the people of the land. Its patriotism and its commitment to the security of the country become suspect. Already, the impression is very widespread among general public that their country is being turned into an American colony. A sizeable section of the electorate honestly believes that our foreign policy reflects Washington's priorities and our domestic policies are dictated by Western financial institutions. The nation is awaiting an explanation from the Prime Minister for the reported sell-out of our security and commercial interests.

Report Says Security Services on 'Red Alert'

BK2811131295 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 28 Nov 95 pp 1, 5

[Report by "special correspondent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On getting a report from a friendly Gulf country's secret agency orders have been issued for making fool-proof security arrangements for all the prominent political personalities including the president and the prime minister. All the secret agencies have been put on red alert. The report received from the Gulf country has informed the government that the fundamentalist religious extremists have planned to assassinate prominent personalities including the president, the prime minister and the chief ministers during their strike calls starting from next month. The federal government has advised the interior ministry to make fool-proof arrangements for the security of all the prominent personalities. Moreover, the government has also advised all the important personalities to inform the interior ministry well in time about their participation any public gathering or program so that the ministry could take satisfactory security measures. It has also been learned that the federal government has ordered special security arrangements for chief minister of Sindh, four minister of Sindh provincial government and a federal minister from upper Sindh who belongs to a particular religious group as the government has got reports that these people are on the hit list of the terrorists.

Two Afghanistan Party Officials Said Expelled

LD2811155395 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar, Nov. 28, IRNA — Pakistan has ordered expulsion of two Afghans representing Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] faction allied to the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, the party sources said here Tuesday [28 November].

Golam 'Ali Saram and Haji Javed, representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat (Akbari group) in Pakistan's northwestern frontier and western Baluchistan provinces respectively had been served notices of expulsion today, the Wahdat sources in Peshawar told IRNA. The sources said that Saram had left Pakistan via Torkham post bordering eastern Afghanistan while Javed would also pack up soon.

Pakistan has expelled nineteen Afghan diplomats and eleven officials besides Mas'ud Khalili, special representative of Afghan president in Islamabad since September last following ransacking of its embassy in Kabul by an angry mob. An embassy employee was killed and more than twenty other staffers including Islamabad ambassador to Kabul were injured in the attack meant to protest Pakistan's alleged support to Taleban student militia.

Islamabad denes that it backs the Taleban.

Government To Expel Arabs Without Legal Documents

BK2911061695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Major General Nasirrulah Khan Babar has said that nobody, including foreign nationals, will be allowed to use Pakistani soil for terrorist activities. Addressing the District Bar Association in Naushera, he said all Arabs staying in Pakistan without legal documents will be expelled.

To a question, he said that Altaf Group wanted to achieve its ulterior motives through terrorism in Karachi.

No Extradition of Egyptian Embassy Bomb Suspects

BK2911100595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Pakistan will not extradite to Egypt or any other country their citizens who are found involved or linked in any way with the Egyptian embassy bomb blasts.

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"They will be tried under the prevailing law. Rather, we may seek extradition of some persons whose links will be established with Islamabad explosions," a senior official dealing with the investigation of these blasts and extradition matters told The News Tuesday [28 November]. If a person commits an offense in Pakistan, he is to be arraigned here."

Pakistan has signed an extradition treaty with Egypt and a number of other countries. More than a dozen Egyptians who were wanted by Cairo on different charges had been extradited to Egypt over the past one year. Some others are to be extradited.

Such expatriation of hard-core Islamists by Pakistan has earned criticism from some religious parties at home, which say that these persons are not given a fair chance to defend themselves in their countries.

Egyptian Interior Minister General Hasan al-Alfi was quoted the other day as saying that he expected Islamabad to extradite the culprits of the bomb attack. "The least that a state where terrorist incidents have taken place can do is to make rapid extraditions", he had said.

However, the Pakistani official said under the international law if a criminal was found involved in similar or different offences in more than one country, he would be tried separately in all these states.

There are indications that citizens of some Muslim states wanted by them, who had been or would be arrested during the current crackdown against those involved in Egyptian embassy blasts, would be extradited if they were not linked to Islamabad explosions.

Meanwhile, the US has, in a letter to Pakistan, sought extradition of 10 persons, who, it says, are terrorists. Interior Minister Maj Gen Nasirullah Babar confirmed that the government has received the communication.

He said a team of the American Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had come to Islamabad to investigate the Egyptian embassy bombing and Pakistan had not asked for experts from any country.

Over the past couple of years, Pakistan has extradited over half a dozen alleged drug smugglers to the United States. However, the most important extradition that earned international media coverage was that of Ramzi Yusuf, who was accused of World Trade Centre bombing. He was hastily packed for New York.

Four Arab Nationals Released in Embassy Bomb Probe

BK2911094895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Nov 95 p 12

["Bureau report"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — The four Arabs nationals who were detained by police in raids in Hayatabad Township in Peshawar Monday night [27 November] were later allowed to return to their homes.

Those detained briefly included a Palestinian holding Egyptian nationality, an Egyptian holding Canadian citizenship and two Syrians. Arabs living in Hayatabad said the four men returned home around 11 pm after checking of their documents and some police investigation.

The action was part of government efforts to nab the terrorists who bombed the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad recently and killed 18 people. The Frontier Police and Frontier Constabulary had also raided the Jallozai camp for Afghan refugees near Pabbi on Monday with the same objectives but it couldn't lay hands on any Arabs. Instead, they apprehended the three Pakistani wives of the Arabs and four other Pakistanis who had reportedly come to the camp to buy a vehicle.

Indian Navy Increases Presence Near Exercise

BK2811134395 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Nov 26 — The Indian Navy further enlarged its flotilla in the international waters off Pakistan Coast on Sunday [26 November] in an obvious attempt to closely monitor the maritime exercises - Sea Spark'95.

A senior naval official told Dawn that India had sent two additional destroyers, a coast guard vessel and a reconnaissance aircraft in the exercise area to step up its monitoring activity.

These latest arrivals are in addition to two navy and coast guards surface ships, two long-range aircraft, and a submarine sent by India shortly before the beginning of Sea Spark's tactical phase on Nov 18.

On Nov 23, an Indian reconnaissance aircraft violated Pakistan's air space off Ormara forcing Pakistan to lodge a formal protest with India.

The three spying Indian aircraft — IL-38 and TU-142 — are constantly monitoring the Pakistan Navy vessels taking part in the exercises.

The navy has been divided into Orange (enemy) and Blue (Pakistan) forces for exercise purpose.

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However, officials said that such a large presence of Indian ships and aircraft, though unusual, in the exercise area was also helping Pakistan Navy go assess the capabilities of their manpower and machinery.

Altaf Hussain Denies Ordering Babar Assassination

BK2611072295 Karachi AMN in Urdu 15 Nov 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 14 November (AMN News) Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] Leader Altaf Hussain has strongly rejected Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar's allegation that the MQM chief has given a green signal for his assassination. Describing Babar's allegation as totally baseless, fabricated, and highly provocative, Altaf Hussain said he has neither given such a signal nor does he believe in giving such orders. He did say that every child is aware that Nasirullah Babar, an insane and hard-hearted person, has had thousands of Muhajirs murdered and he continues to do that. He said that Nasirullah Babar has committed crimes, not against him, but against the entire nation. He has had thousands of Muhajirs killed. He is a war criminal. In a state of perturbation, Nasirullah Babar gave the statement that criminals cannot be brought to book only through courts. Translating this despotic thinking into action, this cruel-hearted person is having arrested MQM workers murdered in staged police encounters. Nasirullah Babar's above statement is glaring proof of his crimes. He added that Nasirullah Babar has become terrified by the thought that he may be tried and punished for the shameful crimes he has committed, and is still committing against humanity and that is why he has given the above statement. However, MQM leadership wants Babar to remain alive, because if someone assassinates the interior minister, then all of his crimes would be covered up; and the abominable crimes committed by Benazir Zardari and her Pakistan People's Party through him would not be exposed.

Altaf Hussain declared that he and the MQM do not want to assassinate Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, but they are determined to arrest him, whenever they get the opportunity to do so, and to try him as war criminal for murdering thousands of Muhajirs and for other crimes against humanity.

Leghari Rules Out Presidential System

BK2411055695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Nov 95 pp 1, 3

[Report "From Our Correspondent"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the government will not chang its stance taken in the budget 1995-96 disagreeing with IMF, IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] conditionalities and delaying implementation of its package.

He was responding to the question from journalists, regarding on- going talks between Pakistani delegation and IMF, IBRD officials in New York.

President said that though Pakistan will not burden the people with heavy taxes but talks are under-way and understanding between the parties is either reached or going to be reached soon.

To another question regarding Press reports indicating that the President was considering President form of the government, Leghari refused to comment on the reports terming them as baseless.

"We have the Constitution and there is no such provision in the Constitution", he added.

Earlier addressing the annual convocation of Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS) President said that all the previous governments and leaders miserably failed to promote education in the country especially scientific and technical education. He said that they even did not endeavor to promote education according to the needs of the day.

President is also the Chancellor of the University. Pro-Chancellor and former Finance Minister Syed Babar Ali Shah delivered the address of welcome, Abdul Razzaq Dawood and Dean Wasim Azhar highlighted the achievements and objectives of the institution on the occasion.

President Leghari said that, "We have to make a plan for the promotion of education and we will have to begin soon otherwise we will be too late".

The President Leghari said that, "We have to make a plan for the promotion of education and we will have to begin soon otherwise we will be too late".

The President, referring to the criticism of some people and newspapers regarding his thought provoking speeches but lack of implementation said,"I am doing what I can. "I am not the chief executive of the country not that of any province. I have constitutional responsibilities and cannot go beyond limits ", he added.

President said that he wants to start a movement in the country to promote education in the country and provide equal opportunities for education to all the segments of the society. He invited the newly graduate class of LUMS to join him in achieving the goal of 100 percent literacy in the country. "We must rescue the society from disaster at this juncture".

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The President was of the view that at some institutions there are sufficient sources and variety of equipment and best trained, qualified staff but in the other institutions there is lack of skill, teaching staff where the number of students is also limited.

He said that the government needs generalists than administrators and he is thinking for the possibility or association of government servants to learn in LUMS since the future of the county lies in public-private partnership for which interaction of business class and the government is necessary.

He regretted that two third population of this country is in the darkness of ignorance. There is need to provide education to the every citizen of Pakistan.

President called for the need for restructuring whole education system in the country and develop proper linkages in primary, secondary, Intermediate and university levels.

Paying rich tributes to the management and founders of LUMS, especially Babar Ali Shah, for their successful endeavour to introduce business management education of the international standards in Pakistan, he said that this institution has achieved repute world over and the country direly needs such institutions.

He said that LUMS is one of the few institutions in Pakistan which are recognised globally and now it is know as centre for excellence in the country.

Farooq Leghari expressing dissatisfaction over the performance of Quaid-e-Azam University said that it started it operations with tremendous promises but it has badly failed in achieving its objectives excepting few areas.

Eulogising the performance of GIK Institute for Science and Technology in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Institute of Chemistry Karachi and Institute of Business Administration Karachi, the President said that these institutions have also achieved good footings internationally.

Earlier, Pro-Chancellor of the university Syed Babar Ali welcoming President Leghari said that Pakistan is blessed with natural resources and human skill. He said that peaceful, prosperous and stable Pakistan is possible through education, He said that LUMS is endeavoring to achieve these goals.

It said that LUMS is not a foreign university but it is a Pakistani university of international standards.

Ali Speaks at Opening of Economic Seminar

BK2811152695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A seminar on right economic future for ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] was held in Islamabad this morning to mark the ECO day celebrations in Pakistan and other member states. Inaugurating the seminar, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said the ECO linking Pakistan and nine other fraternal countries is moving forward for speedy economic integration. He proposed holding of ECO summit every year to speed up implementation of projects in economic, banking, insurance, shipping, and cultural sectors under the plan of action already agreed by the member states.

Stressing the need for regional peace and stability, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali called for an early end of civil strife in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is all for noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and supports OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] and UN efforts to bring about peace in that brotherly country.

The Iranian ambassador, Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh, in his speech emphasized the need for speedy implementation of joint economic projects under ECO. He lauded the role of Pakistan for pushing up ECO shipping company project.

Reaffirming his country's firm support to objectives and goals of ECO, the Turkish ambassador, Mr. Azer Candan, said ECO countries stand for peace and stability to expand their economic cooperation. The ambassador of Turkmenistan, Mr. (Safarvardi Niyazov), said ECO is playing a major role in consolidating historic, cultural, and economic links among member states.

Adviser on Export Growth, Current Account Deficit

BK2611103495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] V.A. Jaffery, adviser to the prime minister on economic affairs, has said within a period of two years, the exports of the country have moved from a negligible growth to over 18 percent. Addressing a two-day investment conference in Lahore last evening, he said that the concrete steps taken by the government would help boost the export sector. He said that over $5 billion of foreign investment was made in the country during 1994-95, more than three times as compared to 1992- 93. Jaffery said that the fiscal deficit would come down to the level of 4.6 percent during the current year. It has already been brought down from 8 percent to 5.5 percent within two years.

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Cabinet Concerned Over 'Rumors' on Economy

BK2811011495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Cabinet, which met in Lahore with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair, took a general review of the prevailing situation. The cabinet noted with concern the sudden increase in speculations and rumors, particularly about the country's economy. The Federal Cabinet felt that it was being done deliberately by vested interests to create panic among the people in general and the potential investors in particular. The Federal Cabinet expressed its satisfaction over the state of national economy due to many factors, including the confidence shown by the International Monetary Fund when it arranged $600 million as standby facility for Pakistan.

Briefing newsmen on the decisions of the cabinet, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khaled Ahmad Khan Kharal, said it was a false propaganda that there was a possibility of freezing of foreign current deposits or further devaluation of rupee or banks refusal to honor the checks. He said the position was that not even one of the 7,000 checks presented to the treasury on an average has been bounced for reasons of non-sufficient funds. He said similarly neither the rupee was to be devalued nor was there any possibility of freezing foreign currency accounts.

Mr. Khaled Ahmad Khan Kharal said the cabinet also discussed holding of elections of the cantonment boards, which were normally held after every five years.

The cabinet approved a proposal to enhance the limit of the government's equity contribution from the Equity Participation Fund for comparatively larger projects. The existing limit 200,000 rupees has been raised to 1 million rupees.

The cabinet gave approval to the holding of one-day entertainment programs in various sports. It was decided to hold international events in 12 disciplines.

The cabinet was satisfied over the decision of the Commonwealth Summit for the suspension of membership of a member country which had violated human rights and democratic values.

Spokesman Denies Reports on Bounced Checks, Economy

BK2811070395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman has said there is no truth in the reports that government checks have been bounced by the state bank.

Describing the reports as false and mischievous, he said in Islamabad yesterday that they were just deliberate attempts by some elements to malign government's image and create panic and harassment among the public. He also added that the government was not contemplating any change in the present free and liberal foreign exchange regulations. The spokesman recalled that such malicious propaganda was carried out against the government alleging that it was considering doing away with the commutation. He said the same elements were again bent upon creating panic among the people on the economy and country's resources.

Sri Lanka

Kumaratunga Interviewed on Tamil Situation

BK2511125495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 25 Nov 95

[Interview with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga by Rupavahini, Sri Lankan television, on 23 November — received via Internet; first six paragraphs are DAILY NEWS introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said the government believed that the Tamil people in this country had problems — social, economic and a political problem.

The President told Rupavahini in an interview on Thursday. "We see the Tamil people, as a different entity. Though, at the moment we are involved with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], we see the Tamil people as one entity and the LTTE as another".

She said that was why the government had a different dialogue with the Tamil people. "This is why we have offered political solutions, the hand of friendship and the Devolution Package to the Tamil people", she said.

The President said the Tamil people, specially during the last two decades, began to think that there was no other alternative to their problems, other than violence, because the government then in power, almost proved that the only possible solution was violence as violence was used against innocent Tamil people — for example, during the Black July of '83 and on several other occasions.

"But we are convinced that Tamil militancy and specially the murderous terror tactics of the LTTE are only an outgrowth of the Tamil problems", she said.

The following is the full text of the interview over Rupavahini:

Q: Madam President, you have always maintained that the final solution to the ethnic crisis would be a

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negotiated one. In recent times some of your most vocal opponents of the peace proposals have joined the cheer-squads, they are praising you, and the army. How do you read this?

A: Well, I think that is not difficult to understand. Because on the ethnic issue as you say some of our most vocal opponents opposed us, on the basis that the only solution that should be employed to solve the ethnic crisis is the military one. We never accepted that and we still do not accept it.

So, they probably, mistakenly in their naivety and immaturity, think that the government now thinks that we could end this problem only by military means. So they are happy, and they are cheering, but here I must add with brackets that those people, those cheer squads have not lifted a finger, have not sacrificed anything at all to help us in solving this problem.

Either by peaceful means or by a military one, they have stood on the wings. They are now trying to get cheap political advantage from the sacrifices made by our soldiers and the sacrifices by some of us, who, at the risk of our own lives, are carrying on this struggle. So it is normal, now that we are gaining some military victories, that such people are cheering us. But we do not get fooled by it.

Q: To what do you attribute the success of the army? The same army has been in existence, during the 12 year conflict. We don't see any major drastic changes in the command structure. What is the secret?

A: Well, as you say, it is the same army with a few changes at the top. It is the same people — almost all of them. The difference is, I think, in the political leadership that has been given the army, on the one hand, and the political leadership that we gave in solving the problem as a whole. The difference — there are many differences, very serious major differences. Firstly, in the way we looked at the problem altogether, not only the problem of the war but the ethnic problem altogether. My government and I see it very differently from how all other governments, specially the last one saw it. Namely, we believed very strongly that the Tamil people in this country have a problem social, economic and a political problem. We therefore believe that those problems must be solved politically. We have not, at no point unlike the last regime confused the Tamil people, and their justifiable problems, with its outcome which is the LTTE and its terror tactics. We have seen the Tamil people of Sri Lanka as a different entity from the LTTE. There is no doubt, that Tamil people's problems have not been solved for a long time. Which gave rise to militancy and terror.

Because Tamil people, specially in the last two decades, began to think that there was no other alternative to their problems, other than violence, as the government then in power, almost proved that the only possible solution was violence because violence was used against innocent Tamil people — for example, during the Black July of '83 and at several other times. But we are convinced that Tamil militancy and specially the murderous terror tactics of the LTTE are only an outgrowth of the Tamil problems, but not a necessary outgrowth of it. We believe that the root cause of the problem has to be attacked first, which is the political problem. And this is why our government has, while engaging in military operations, gone ahead and proposed political solutions, in the form of the Devolution Package.

Q: What has been your role, as Commander-in-Chief of the military operations?

A: From the time I assumed duties as President, and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, I took my responsibilities very seriously, because we were engaged in a very serious military situation — a war.

We first planned our strategy in solving the ethnic problem as a whole. Part of this strategy, the major part of it was the peace effort. We tried to stop the war completely, we offered peace to the LTTE and to the Tamil people. We persuaded the militants who were fighting us, that is the LTTE, to come to the negotiating table, to be able to negotiate a ceasefire, and stop the hostilities for a period of about 7 or 8 months.

That ceasefire itself lasted for over 3 months. During the entire peace process, I played a very active role as Commander-in-Chief, and as President of the country, because it was a politico-military thing and from the time I became President I have chaired every single security council meeting. Apparently, this is the first time since the war began, that a head of state had even attended security council meetings regularly like I did.

We had at least one security council meeting per week sometimes two, three or four depending on the workload and I have played a very active role in the peace process and thereafter in the planning of the military operation after the LTTE compelled us to begin hostilities again. In fact you may be surprised to know that in the past people like the Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Paskaralingam had attended security council meetings and sometimes even chaired them and given instructions as to what the military should do.

In my government we have not tolerated any such situation, no Secretary to the Treasury or anyone who was not directly involved in the security operations of the country, ever attended such meetings. I would say

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there are three major differences — firstly, the manner in which a government solves problems. The ethnic problem and the Tamil question is very different. Our government has clearly understood that the war only, as an outgrowth of the Tamil problem.

We see the Tamil people, as a different entity. Though at the moment we are involved with the LTTE, we see the Tamil people as one entity and the LTTE as another.

This is why we have a different dialogue with the Tamil people. This is why we have offered political solutions, the hand of friendship and the Devolution Package to the Tamil people. This is why unlike the other governments we have taken great pains even at physical risk to ourselves, to ensure the safety of the civilian population in the operational areas, to ensure that they receive at least the basic minimum requirements for their livelihood, food, medical supplies, etc. all this while we are engaged in a war with the LTTE. So we have seen the whole Tamil problem, the ethnic question and the war in a very different way to how the last government saw it.

The last government did not understand it at all, they did not even begin to understand it. They thought, they could adopt the same tactics they adopted towards the whole population - namely, the use of force and or the use of corruption. They tried both with the Tamil people. They attacked them physically, destroyed people and the property of Tamil people and they thought they could intimidate them into submission. When that didn't work, the last government used methods of corruption, which they also use generally in their political dealing with the rest of the country.

They gave hundreds of millions of rupees to the LTTE. They gave plane-loads, lorry-loads of arms and thought they could get around the LTTE with these kinds of gifts.

Both methods had proved to be sadly unsuccessful. We have looked at the problem totally differently. We have tried to sincerely understand it with a little bit of intelligence and a lot of sincerity. I think we have succeeded, in at least understanding the basis of the problem, the underlying reasons for the problems.

The second major difference is that, we have understood the problem correctly, have evolved a very clear systematic plan for peace and also for military operations, when we were forced into it.

In fact right up to April 19, my government did not buy one single cent worth of armaments for the military because they had enough for a time of peace.

Q: Do you mean to say there were no contingency plans?

A: Not contingency plans/but we did not need to purchase arms if there was going to be peace, because the army already had a certain amount. We needed more if we were going into a sustained, protracted, intensive war.

But we had certain contingency plans in case of the LTTE let us down which, we were expecting, specially towards the end of the peace process.

Q: Madam, what was the nature of the contingency plans you had?

A: As I told you, we had certain military plans in case the LTTE broke the truce and went into hostilities.

At the same time, we were in the process of procuring at least the basic necessities for the armed forces, we were able to draw-up, completely what we required for the operational plans, which we drew up after the hostilities began, and then we began the procurement process. Normally in this country military procurement takes anything between 12 to 18 months, and we took this into our hands and we were able to procure much more than the Sri Lankan forces have ever had in 12 years in a period of 5 months. This wasn't an easy task, some of us personally got involved in it. Very often under my instruction, I had personally sometimes in the middle of the night at 12 midnight, at four o'clock in the morning telephoned various parts of the world to try and hurry this. And, we were able to procure in five months what normally would have taken anything between 12-18 months.

On the April 19, we were forced to transform ourselves into a military operation and within less than 10 days we had already evolved the general outline of, what is happening now, and we had looked at many options. We had hours of discussions and discussions with the field commanders for the first time.

I, as Head of State, had protracted discussions with the field commanders, dozens of them. I invited them too my office and we had many discussions with them, and drew up our plan. We then drew up the military procurements that were required for that plan and in fact the commanders told us that this was the first time that a complete plan of procurement had been drawn up for the forces. They say they hardly ever got what they asked for. All kinds of second hand stuff were dumped on them for various odd reasons. Often they did not get what they required.

I won't say that they did not get anything at all. But they did not get what they required and you will be surprised,

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that for example for an island nation like ours where the navy should be an important part of the military operations, especially, when the government was fully aware that the LTTE had developed a very strong naval capacity in the form of its Sea Tigers, the Sri Lanka Navy was totally unprepared, they didn't have the basic requirements they needed.

They had very few boats and crafts that were suitable to face an attack. They did not even have, knowing very well the Sea Tigers had human bombs, that came swimming under water, even basic underwater detection equipment. They did not have even one. All these were procured by us and so many other things, aircraft, ships, modern military equipment. We planned very clearly for the military operation and procured all that was required just as we planned the peace-process. So that is the second big difference.

The third and the last major difference I see is that all this was put together with a clear political leadership. Under the last government, I don't believe that our army had any political leadership at all. The government itself was so divided, between about five different giants of the government, within inverted commas of course, and they had their own favourites within the forces. They divided the forces for their own purposes and the absolute basic essential necessity for a fighting army, which is unity was not there, simply because the politicians could not give one united leadership. In our case this is completely different. We take political decisions jointly. We stick by them, and we give them one clear instruction and that we carry through.

Q: Would you have the same unified political backing from within your government, even at the next stage of he peace campaign?

A: Yes, of course. This is why we have been able to, while carrying on a military operation, enter the second round of the campaign for ending the war, for peace. As I always say, our campaign for final peace consists of the political front and the military front. I would have hoped we need not have used the military front at all, but they did compel us to do that. And as you know we have presented the Devolution Package while being at war. We are carrying through the necessary steps to make the Devolution Package a reality while fighting the war.

Q: At what stage are the peace proposals. Is the draft ready for presentation to the Select Committee.

A: The legal draft is ready now. We previously presented the general draft to the country and as you know for months we have allowed it to be discussed in every nook and corner of the country. Now the legal draft is ready to be presented to the select committee of parliament. We will choose the correct time, once we have stabilised ourselves militarily and then we have to go into discussion in the select committee and voting in parliament and the referendum.

Q: There is a euphoria, building up all over the country with the impending take-over of Jaffna. Are you prepared for any eventualities? If anti-Tamil sentiments are whipped up by interested parties during the celebrations?

A: Well, yes, we are taking every possible precaution to protect the Tamil population, as well as everybody else from any unnecessary result of that euphoria that you just talked about. In fact I have already given instructions to the IGP [Inspector General of Police] at the beginning of this week to address his people, specially those in Colombo and major towns to see that peace is maintained, and he has done that.

Today, we have spoken to the government parliamentary group and given them the political responsibility of maintaining peace and calm in their electorates together with the police.

In fact, I did a similar operation at the time of the assassination of the high priest of Dimbulagala, when some of our opponents tried to stir up racial violence by setting ablaze some shops owned by Tamils in Galle town. They also pasted absolutely incendiary posters in Colombo. Then we did a similar operation, very successfully, and I am also going to request the people through the media to maintain calm, and tell them we will not stop meting out the strictest possible punishment to anybody who disturbs the peace.

'Military Sources': Capture of Jaffna 'Imminent'

BK2911105995 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops which had cleared buildings of booby traps and explosives planted by fleeing terrorists in Chiviyatheru West had run the gauntlet of sniper fire as they moved Westwards towards the city centre, military sources in Colombo said. They said the total capture of Jaffna is imminent.

"Advancing columns met with terrorist resistance from the Southern and North Western flanks and mortar and artillery engaged terrorist concentrations effectively, causing heavy casualties to terrorists," a Defence Ministry release said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Air Force pounded identified terrorist targets in the area North West of Jaffna Fort. The pilots

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had confirmed direct hits. But the details of terrorist casualties were not available, the release said.

Troops suffered two soldiers killed and three officers and 24 soldiers injured in action on Tuesday.

Hundreds of Tiger cadres trapped inside the beleaguered city are running out of supplies and ammunition and are making desperate radio calls to their leaders who are in safe hideouts for reinforcements. Meanwhile, some cadres resigned to the inevitable and imminent fall of their bastion have begun defying the orders of their military leaders, reports said. LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] top rungers including Prabhakaran himself have admitted that Jaffna would fall to the security forces.

Defence sources said they would stay put in Jaffna after seizing it from the rebels. The army is drawing up plans to effectively consolidate Jaffna, which the Tigers ruled as a virtual mini-state since 1990.

The army has wrested a large amount of territory from the LTTE through a number of operations this year. Operation Riviresa [Sunshine], the biggest military offensive since 1987, began on October 17 when thousands of heavily armed infantrymen from two divisions backed by armour, air cover and artillery broke out of the Forward Defended Localities of the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula and moved southwards towards Jaffna.

During the operation they seized the towns of Navakkeri, Achchelu, Achchuveli, Urelu, Neerveli, Urumpirai, Kopay and Kondavil before storming Jaffna. Most of these towns had extensive LTTE training facilities and in some cases, underground command centres. More than 1,600 rebels have been killed by advancing troops, dealing a crippling blow to the morale of remaining Tiger cadres.

"Our eventual aim is to dominate the entire Jaffna peninsula and indeed, the Northern Province, and liberate innocent civilians from the grip of a terrorist group," a senior military officer said.

Tamil Rebels Slow Army Assault on Jaffna

BK2911073895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 29 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas offered stiff resistance to virtually halt a Sri Lankan army advance on their main bastion of Jaffna, under siege for the seventh straight day Wednesday, defence sources said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had reduced the drive by thousands of soldiers to a crawl by deploying snipers who killed at least three army men and wounded 49 overnight, the sources said.

"The going is becoming very tough as the troops get closer to the centre of the town," a defence official said. "The army estimates that the LTTE has about 1,000 cadres holed up in Jaffna for a last ditch battle."

The Sri Lankan army, backed by air cover, tanks and artillery guns, imposed a blockade on Jaffna town on November 23 after launching its biggest offensive yet against the guerrillas 44 days ago.

Since then, some 472 soldiers and 1,830 rebels have died in bitter fighting which has also left nearly 5,000 on both sides wounded by official count. Thousands of civilians have fled to safer areas, turning Jaffna into a ghost town.

On Tuesday, LTTE guerrillas shot and damaged a MI-24 helicopter gunship which was on a bombing mission in the eastern district of Batticaloa, military sources said.

"The rotor blades were hit but the helicopter is serviceable," a source said.

The damaged MI-24 is one of three inducted in the air force this month to provide close air cover to troops advancing against the LTTE in Jaffna, capital of a de facto state the LTTE has run in Sri Lanka's north since 1990.

The air force suffered its worst losses when two transport planes were shot down while approaching the main military base in Jaffna peninsula last week, killing 68 security personnel.

With the air bridge to troops in the peninsula seriously crippled, about 3, 000 soldiers have been unable to return to Jaffna to join the offensive, defence sources said.

"The main problem these days is organising the troop turn-around," a defence official said, adding that a small private transport plane had been chartered by the air force to evacuate the wounded from Jaffna.

As fighting continued in Jaffna, security was further tightened at the heavily-guarded Sri Lankan parliament on Wednesday amid fears of Tiger attacks, officials said.

The public galleries were closed indefinitely and legislators were asked not to invite guests to the sprawling parliament complex located on a lake island near here, an official spokesman said.

"Only press reporters will be allowed in," the spokesman said. "Even ministers have been told to drastically cut down the number of public servants summoned to parliament for consultations."

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Two months ago, the government grounded all domestic private airlines, saying the LTTE could hijack one of them and bomb parliament.

The Tamil Tigers have been accused of carrying out several bomb attacks in Colombo, and the police say they were looking for up to 30 LTTE suicide bombers who have allegedly infiltrated the capital.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern regions of the country. More than 50,000 people have died in the drive.

LTTE Member Admits Former Deputy Executed

BK2811163695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1342 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (AFP) — A former deputy of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers guerrilla group has been executed on charges of treason, an Indian newsmagazine has quoted a rebel leader as saying.

The latest issue of OUTLOOK weekly quoted Anton Balasingham of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as saying that Gopalaswamy Mahendraraja, alias Mahattya, had been killed. It did not say when.

"Mahattya is no more. He was executed for plotting to kill (LTTE leader Velupillai) Prabhakaran," Tigers' spokesman Balasingham said in an interview to the magazine in the rebel-held Sri Lankan north.

It is the first admission by the LTTE that Mahattya, who was the number two in the guerrilla group until his sudden "arrest" in 1993, had been killed. LTTE leaders have previously said he had been sentenced to death.

Mahattya, who like Prabhakaran came from Sri Lanka's northern district of Jaffna, was one of the oldest members of the LTTE, which is fighting for a homeland for the island's Tamil minority.

Mahattya reportedly came under suspicion after an LTTE leader, Sathasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, killed himself when the Indian navy surrounded a ship in which he was travelling off Jaffna in January 1993.

It was then alleged that Mahattya had betrayed Kittu's movements to India.

Balasingham had told the OUTLOOK magazine earlier that Mahattya was "arrested and subjected to interrogation for one year. We found him guilty, and he was sentenced to death.

"He was involved in a plot to kill Prabhakaran and take over the LTTE."

Mahattya was involved in the LTTE's peace talks with Sri Lanka in 1989-90 and had met with then President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was assassinated by a Tiger suicide bomber in May 1993.

The LTTE, whose dragging separatist campaign has claimed more than 50,000 lives, was founded by Prabhakaran in 1976. Sri Lankan authorities have placed a reward of 500,000 dollars on Prabhakaran's head.

Military Officials Confirm Report

BK2911110495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's [LTTE] former second in command, Gopalaswamy Mahendraraja alias Mahattaya was executed along with 13 other LTTE cadres suspected of being agents for the Indian Intelligence, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) military officials said Tuesday [28 November].

They said that Prabhakran's deputy, who fell out of grace following the detection by the Indian authorities of an LTTE arms smuggling ship, was killed by the rebels somewhere between the end of September and early October. He was suspected by the LTTE hierarchy of having plotted the killing of Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakran.

Mahattya came under suspicion after LTTE's former Jaffna Commander Sathasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, killed himself when the Indian navy surrounded a ship in which he was travelling off Jaffna in January 1993.

Mahattya was suspected of having betrayed Kittu's movements to India.

"He was executed along with 13 others whom the LTTE suspected of being agents of RAW," said the official adding that the 13 were LTTE cadres who had escaped from a prison in Vellore in mid August this year.

The executed escapees were among 43 Tiger cadres who dug their way to freedom through a 153 feet long tunnel extending out of the Vellore prison in South India.

Special Unit Established To Monitor Public Order

BK2611100795 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0743 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 26 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — The Presidential Secretariat has set up a special unit to monitor the situation of public order

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in the country in view of reports that anti-social elements may cause trouble when the military announces the complete re-capture of Jaffna.

The secretariat has announced that President Chandrika Kumaratunga has set up the special unit under her personal direction.

"The government has received information that anti-social elements are planning to cause trouble when the re-capture of Jaffna is announced," a secretariat spokesman said.

Members of the public may report any incident to this special unit on the following telephone numbers at the Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 324821-3 and 433290.

Visiting Tamil Delegation Meets UK Officials

BK2811153195 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1141 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 28 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — The British Government says that it was wrong on the part of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to have broken the cessation of hostilities agreement unilaterally and renewed its war with the Sri Lankan Government. The British Government also expressed satisfaction at the government's programme of relief to people displaced due to the war and has promised aid through volunteer organisations, states Tuesday's OBSERVER.

The British Government's stand on the current situation in the north-east of Sri Lanka was conveyed to a delegation of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) which met British Foreign Ministry officials in London earlier this week. The EPDP delegation was led by its General Secretary and Jaffna District Parliamentarian Douglas Devananda and Parliamentarian S. Thangavel. The British Foreign Ministry team was headed by Caroling Elnes, in-charge of South Asian Affairs of Commonwealth countries and assisted by Mike Haddock, table officer for Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives.

Devananda told the British Foreign Ministry that lasting peace can be achieved in Sri Lanka only through finding a political solution to the ethnic issue. "It is very important to create democratic conditions where all the democratic forces in the north-east could function independently", Devananda told the Foreign Ministry officials. He also said that if the Tamils in the north and east were to live peacefully, a political solution, democratic conditions, resettlement of refugees, and reconstruction activities are the basic needs.

Caroling Elnes said that her country is well aware of the present situation in Sri Lanka and all sections involved in the problem should realise that it is only through negotiations that a settlement to the ethnic problem could be reached. She expressed the British Government's belief that Sri Lanka Government will pursue its programme for a political solution. Devananda requested the British authorities to reconsider the process of sending back Tamils who went to Britain as refugees soon after the July '83 violence and thereafter. "It will be a difficult task under present conditions for those of the north-east of Sri Lanka to return to these areas and to safeguard themselves from the hazards of the ongoing war", Devananda explained.

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